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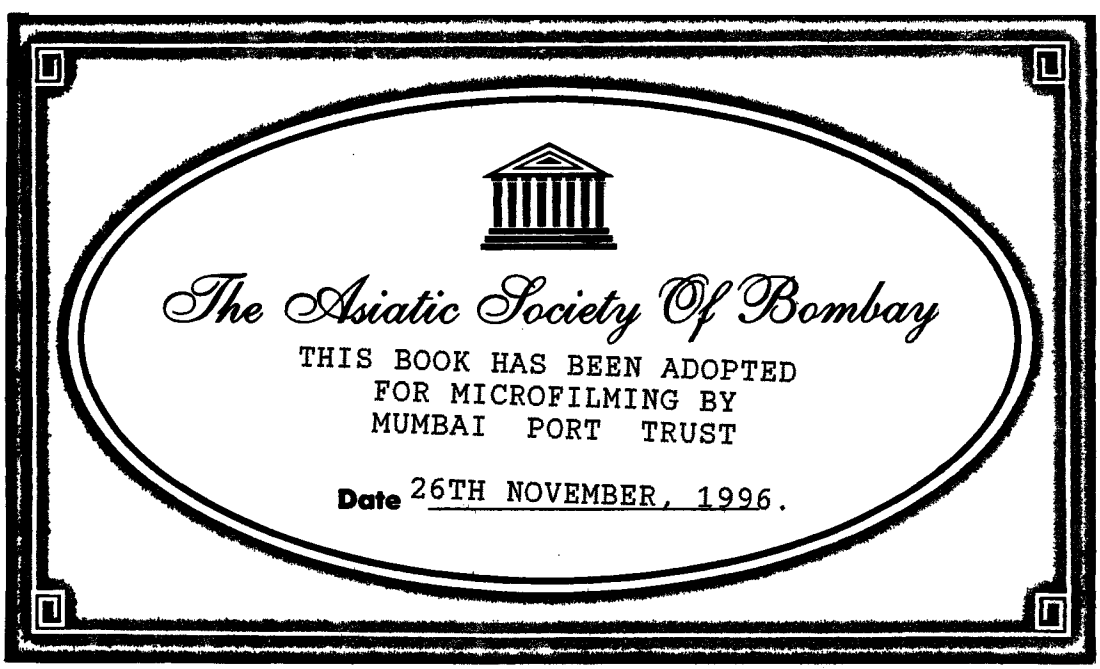


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# THE BOMBAY RIOTS.

When in 1851 the Mahomedans of Bombay rushed out suddenly from their chief musjid one day, attacked the Parsees, and wrecked their property, it was believed by many persons who had faith in the advancing influence of education and British civilization that it must be a long time indeed before the world would be shocked by hearing of a similar outrage. But on the 18th of February 1874, a day which will have a conspicuous place in the record of the troubles of the Parsees as a nation, Mahomedan fanaticism and hatred once more burst forth against the Bombay Parsees. The victims were numerous, and a considerable portion of Mahomedan blackguardism, after it had desecrated Parsee places of worship, must have been enriched by plunder from the dwellings of unfortunate Parsee citizens, whose only sin, in the eyes of the Mahomedans, was their respectability. This outbreak was a disgrace to all Mussulmans, a scandal to the age, and a reproach to the efforts of the British Government to improve their Mahomedan subjects. It was not alone in Bombay that it was stigmatized as a disgrace to Mussulmans. The telegraph soon conveyed news of the ferocious and unwarrantable attack upon the Parsees, far and near, and public opinion was prompt in replying that the Parsees deserved the pity and sympathy of all honest men for the brutal outrages upon life, property, and religion to which the Mahomedan mob had subjected them. Seldom has such unanimity been shown by the press of India upon any subject. And it is worth remarking that the Parsees were also sympathised with for the incompetence of Government and the Police—an incompetence which the Mahomedan mob were only too glad to avail themselves of, to the terror of the Parsees and the prostration of business in Bombay for several days. The Riots of 1874 will be remembered for many a day to come, and a few years hence it will be a fertile source of wonder how it was possible that a city of the importance in India of Bombay could be so thoroughly given over to the excesses of a violent mob. Much as the Police and the Government have been blamed at the present time, there is every probability that the judgment of posterity will be still more severe upon their conduct. It is to be trusted that the recent scenes of violence and bloodshed recently witnessed in Bombay will never be repeated. If the Mahomedans have shown themselves capable of harbouring bad feeling against the Parsees for a quarter of a century, the authorities have now received a sufficient warning to be more on the alert in future to keep that feeling from breaking out into open exhibitions of brutal violence. But after all it is a poor consolation to a respectable and loyal people that the recent outrages will teach the authorities to take better precautions

future. Had the authorities taken sufficient care before the 13th of February, the disgraceful Riots which commenced on that day could never have occurred.

The Riot in 1851 was excused by the Mahomedans on various grounds. They said that a Guzeratee newspaper, the *Chitra Dnyan Durpan*, had published a scurrilous life of Mahomed, together with a caricature of him; they also said that some Parsees had drawn on the walls of the Jumma Musjid a sketch of Mahomet riding upon an ass. The latter story the Parsees denied at the time and still deny; the former they allege to be an exaggeration of a trivial circumstance. Mr. Byramjee Cursetjee Ghandy did publish in the *Chitra Dnyan Durpan* a sketch of the life of Mahomet, but it was not scurrilous, being simply an attempt to give a fair account of the life and character of the Prophet. The portrait complained of was not a caricature; what seems to have annoyed the Mahomedans with it was that one of Mahomet's eyes was represented to be somewhat smudged, but this was not done intentionally, the fault lying with the rough workmanship of the native engravers of the woodcut in imitating a very common picture of Mahomet which is attached to several English histories of the life of the Prophet. But the difficulty of finding out what really excited the Mahomedans only suggests that the true reason was inadequate to justify in the slightest degree the lawless attitude of the Mahomedans towards the Parsees. The Riots of 1874 were presumably founded on circumstances as puerile as those which have been alleged as the scapegoat of the Riots of 1851. We say "presumably," because it is not easy to keep back the suspicion that the circumstances alluded to were not the true reasons for the Riots of 1851 and 1874; there are many people who suspect that in each case the outrages upon the Parsees were instigated by designing Mahomedans working upon the feelings and prejudices of the lower orders of their castemen. Some time towards the end of 1873 a Parsee named Rustomjee Hormusjee Jalbhoy, a vaccinator in Bombay, published a Guzeratee book upon the lives of the great Prophets of the world. The publication had no literary pretensions, but it was fated to obtain extraordinary notoriety from the fact that some busy Mahomedans professed to discover in it an insulting allusion to Mahomet's domestic relations. Towards the beginning of February, 1874, a deputation of Mahomedans called upon Mr. Souter, the Commissioner of Police, and represented to him that their religion had been insulted by Mr. Jalbhoy's book, and that unless the author were punished in some way they could not answer for the conduct of the Mahomedans towards Parsees. With more good nature probably than serious consideration of the step he was about to take, Mr. Souter told the deputation that he would suppress the obnoxious publication. He accordingly sent instructions to Mr. Jalbhoy, who, afraid of what he had heard about the threats of the Mahomedans, sent all the books he had remaining of the first and only issue of his work to the Police Office, and professed his regret that anything he had written had caused offence. Mr. Souter also asked people who had bought Mr. Jalbhoy's book to send the copies they had of it to him. By these means nearly the whole publication was lodged in the Police Office. By this policy of Mr. Souter's only helped to make the Mahomedans believe that Mahomet had really been insulted by a Parsee, and they became more discontented after the suppression of Mr. Jalbhoy's book than they were before that event took place. They held several meetings

of a private description and some that were public to a great extent. What transpired at the former, is not generally known; of the proceedings of one of the latter the following account was published in the *Bombay Gazette* on the 14th February :—

"The following is a report of the meeting which was held by certain Mussulman inhabitants on Thursday evening :—

Cazee Abdul Lutiff Saheb, in addressing the meeting, stated that complaints having been made to him by several Mussulmans as to a Guzeratee publication by a Parsee containing language calculated to wound the religious feelings of the professors of Islam, he had, in company with some respectable people of the jamat, called upon the Commissioner of Police and laid the facts of the case before him. Mr. Souter paid him every attention and heard the complaint in a very conciliatory manner, and had sent for the publisher of the book in question, and after some consultation with Mr. Souter, the publisher had consented that the unsold copies of the book should be handed over to the police and that endeavours should be made to get back the copies already sold. This course of proceeding had thoroughly satisfied the speaker and his colleagues, and he trusted that the community at large would be satisfied also. He thought after the ready manner in which the publisher had come forward to remedy the cause of the complaint, it would not be becoming on the part of the community to take any further action or to entertain any ill-feeling in the matter, and he trusted that all persons present would control the people of their own jamat from the commission of any illegal or offensive acts.

Mr. Cumroodeen Tyabjee, solicitor, remarked that any legal proceedings which could be instituted in a matter of this sort would, beside being very uncertain in their result, tend to prolong the hostile feeling which had unfortunately been excited in the Mussulman community towards the Parsees. It did not in any way appear that there was any intention on the part of the publisher to offend or insult the professors of Islam, or that he was in any way put up or supported by the Parsee community at large. The readiness to deliver up the books ought to be accepted as a sufficient atonement for what had inadvertently been done; and the friendly feeling hitherto existing between the two communities ought in no way to be disturbed. Under the circumstances, it was the duty of every Mussulman present to impress these ideas upon the minds of the people of their respective jamats and to eradicate all ill-feeling which might have temporarily existed.

Moonshee Ali Akbar Khan Bahadoor said that the Mussulman community ought to be very much obliged to Cazee Abdul Lutiff Sahib, who had taken so much trouble in the matter, and suggested that a petition be presented to Government for passing a law preventing the publication of matter calculated to give offence or to wound the religious feelings of any community.

After some further conversation to the above effect, coffee and bouquets were presented to those present, and the meeting soon afterwards broke up."

This report shows, at all events, that certain conspicuous Mahomedan gentlemen thought the state of matters so serious that it was necessary for them to try reason and persuasion with a number of other Mahomedans to keep the peace and rest content with the action taken by Mr. Souter to vindicate the character of their Prophet. The attitude assumed by a large class of Mahomedans towards not only Mr. Jalbhoy, but the Parsee community collectively, became widely known, and the alarm found expression in the Guzeratee press and in deputations to Mr. Souter of Parsees who said they feared an attack was about to be made upon the Parsee community on Friday, the 13th, the day on which Mahomedans would as usual attend their mosques. A specimen of the rumours that were published by the Guzeratee press—warnings which the police ought to have taken notice of—is that which was contained in the *Bombay Summachar*, on the 11th February, mentioning "that a certain portion of the Mahomedan residents of Bombay seemed to be of

opinion that their religious feelings had been insulted by a Parsee author, and that therefore the insult should be avenged." The Commissioner of Police, however would appear to have thought that the Mahomedan feeling would soon pass away and a similar opinion was entertained in other quarters which could not have been so well informed of the true state of matters as Mr. Souter ought to have been. Thus the *Bombay Gazette*, on the very morning of the day on which the first fatal attack was made upon the Parsees, alluded to the agitation in the following manner, little believing that the city was actually resting above a slumbering volcano :—

"It is quite true that the Mussulmans are at present in a furious state of mind against the Parsees, who are threatened with vengeance because of the writings of Mr. Rustomjee Hormusjee Jalbhoy concerning prophets, creeds, and a number of other things. The immediate cause of the wrath of the Mussulmans is that, as they allege, the Parsee author has spoken of Mahomed's son Ebrahim as being born from a courtesan named Mareea. This language concerning the lady they hold to be terribly sacrilegious. They rave about their religion being insulted; they have even talked dramatically of wiping out the insult to the Prophet with the blood of poor Mr. Jalbhoy, a name which reminds one of Mrs. Jellaby another writer who got herself into trouble by putting her hand to literature. They have held numerous meetings about the matter, and at their redhot desire the Commissioner of Police has consented to suppress the obnoxious edition of the Parsee publication. They have even been talking of holding a monster meeting to-day to decide what action they shall take. Should they unfortunately decide to "have at Jalbhoy," a row very much to be regretted will be sure to ensue. We do not mean to say that such stanch supporters of the law as the general Parsee community are will have the hardihood to resist the onslaught of the Mahomedans, or do anything but stand meekly by while Mr. Jalbhoy is being torn to pieces under the green flag. All that we mean is that, as the police must protect Mr. Jalbhoy, there is sure to be a collision of some sort if the Mussulmans are not better advised than they appear to be at present. Mr. Souter has exercised a proper enough discretion in suppressing a book which has been so unfortunate as to hit the Mahomedan mind on a tender place, and to endanger the public peace. But no such concession to their prejudices could be made as the apprehension and delivering over to them of the persecuted Parsee author, whose last hope, probably, when he spun out of his mental cobwebs such a remarkable tissue as his book is, was to earn popularity in such an uncomfortable manner. We think therefore that they ought to rest satisfied with their vigorous assertion of their belief in the morality of the Prophet. So far as they have gone they are not without blame, for it appears to us that they have made all this ridiculous fuss under a misapprehension of the meaning of the Guzeratee word used by poor Mr. Jalbhoy. We have seen the banned book, the title of which is somewhat comprehensive—to wit, "The Renowned Prophets and Nations, comprising the Lives of Zoroaster, Moses, Christ, and Mahomet, and Abridged History of the Ancient Aryans, the old Parsees, and Complete History of the Jews, the Christians, and the Mahomedans, together with an Account of the Creation of the World from the earliest period to the present time"—and we have noted the part which the Mussulmans object to. We cannot, however, find the use of any word corresponding to "prostitute" in the part referred to. The words used are—"Mahomed nee rakhaillee raud Mareea nae pai Ebrahim uvuno beto poda thio hutto." or, roughly translated, "From Mareea, the kept woman of Mahomet, a son named Ebrahim was born." It is evident that the Mahomedans are putting the coarsest construction upon the Guzeratee words used by Mr. Jalbhoy; but "prostitute" is not specifically spoken of, and there is no great purpose to be served by the Mahomedans in alleging that it is when a very much milder term is what is actually employed. The use of the word "prostitute" or "courtesan" in any connection with Mahomet would probably be certain to offend orthodox Mussulmans; but "kept woman" or "concubine" ought not to be particularly offensive to them, otherwise we should be glad to think that their manners and customs relating to the sequestration of females in harems have undergone a remarkable change since the days of the Prophet. We trust that Aga Khan and the other leaders of the Mussulman community will endeavour to quell the excitement

and bring their excited co-religionists into such a frame of mind that they will hug with contrition and affection the unhappy Parsee author of the History of Creation and Mahomet."

That the remarks contained in the above quotation were just with respect to the groundlessness of the alleged Mahomedan belief that Mr. Jalbhoy had deliberately insulted the memory of Mahomet is proved by the fact that he narrated no original circumstance about Mahomet's domestic relations, the allegation that he had a child by Mareea, his favourite concubine (or, in the nearest Guzeratee equivalent, "kept woman"), having been made by Gibbon, Washington Irving, and other historians. Gibbon speaks of Mahomet's "Egyptian concubine Mary" and of her son Ibrahim; and Washington Irving, whom Mr. Jalbhoy seems to have chiefly relied upon for his information about Mahomet, says, "Ibrahim, Mahomet's son, by his favourite concubine Mariyah, a child but fifteen months old, his only male issue, on whom reposed his hope of transmitting his name to posterity, was seized with a mortal malady and expired before his eyes." The triviality, therefore, of the Mahomedans' complaint against the Parsee author becomes apparent. No educated Mahomedan, acquainted with the ordinary histories in European literature and with Guzeratee idioms, could have believed candidly that the memory of his prophet was insulted by what Mr. Jalbhoy had published. Ignorant Mahomedans *may* have believed such a figment, but before they could do so they must have been influenced and misled by one or other of their spiritual teachers or by some other designing men, and one of the chief duties of the Police in the forthcoming investigation will be to discover the intriguers who were at the bottom of these detestable Mahomedan outbreaks. Notwithstanding the peace into which the Police were lulled, notwithstanding the belief among the general community, though not among Parsees, who remembered 1851, that the whole affair was too absurd to cause any disturbance, the Parsees were attacked on the 13th February in the most unjustifiable manner. There was some reason for the belief of the public at large, who had no means of gauging Mahomedan feeling other than the ordinary measure of common sense, that no such outbreak would occur; but the same excuse cannot be urged for the Police authorities, who, having Mahomedan detectives in their employment, were either deceived by those emissaries or chose to disregard their warnings and those of the Parsee deputations and the Guzeratee newspapers. Had precautions been taken to keep in check the unusually large and turbulent multitude which assembled in the Jumma Musjid on the day about which the public warnings had been uttered, many lives and much property would have been saved; several astonishing political blunders would not have been perpetrated by the Bombay Government; business in the city would not have been suspended; and, more important than all, the feeling of mutual forbearance between the Parsee and Mahomedan communities would not have been shaken with a violence from which it cannot recover for many years.

## THE MAHOMEDAN OUTBREAK IN SHAIK ABDOOL REHMON STREET.

On the 13th February the Jumma Musjid was filled with a much greater number of people than usual. The following account of their conduct appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* on the following morning :—

Early yesterday afternoon a most disgraceful riot took place in Bombay, the Parsees being made the victims of a cruel, and we must say unprovoked, attack by certain Mussulmans. We have already stated that, owing to the publication of a Guzerathee book, containing a life of Mahomet, translated chiefly from Washington Irving's History of the Prophet, the Mussulman community had become greatly excited, believing that a simple allusion to one of his concubines was insulting to their faith and his memory. To calm them, the Commissioner of Police ordered the book to be destroyed, notwithstanding which extraordinary concession to their strange and morbid sentiments, some of the Mussulmans were still dissatisfied and talked of vengeance. The police appear to have treated this threat with less seriousness than the Parsee community, which even became so alarmed, that a deputation waited upon the Commissioner, and called for extra police precautions being taken as they feared that attempts upon their lives and property would be made by Mussulmans either now or during the coming Moburrum. On Tuesday evening a meeting of Mussulmans was held at Mahomed Ibrahim Muckba's bungalow, Byculla, to consider what steps ought to be taken to vindicate the honour of the Prophet. The police made arrangements for being represented at the meeting, but the whole of the proceedings were of such a quiet and orderly nature that, if the police had any apprehensions of rough work taking place yesterday, their suspicions were lulled. Yesterday forenoon a larger meeting than usual was held at the Jumma Musjid, but again, we believe, the proceedings were of such a nature—the priest's address being very pacificatory—that the police agents who were present saw nothing to alarm them. It is difficult to understand how everything appeared so smooth on the surface, when there must have been a perfect storm of vengeance lurking in the breasts of the Mahomedans who were in the Jumma Musjid, if we may judge of their proceedings whenever they left its gateways. Raising the cry of "Deen, deen"—a cry which always has an electric effect upon Mussulman fanatics, and which often has been the forerunner of barbarities perpetrated in the name of the religion of the Prophet—and clutching what weapons they had been able to lay hold of, a mob, calculated by some Parsees to have numbered five thousand, though probably they were not more than as many hundreds, rushed down the defiles of houses which adjoin the Musjid, and made for Bhendy Bazaar and Shaik Abdool Rahmon Street, in both of which places there are a fire-temple and the residences of several thousand Parsees. The mob seemed to be the scum of the Mussulman community, and among the cluster of excited faces the heavy features of Seedees and those of low Arabs were conspicuous. With yells they laid hold of several Parsees that came in their way, and maltreated them. Instantaneously the news spread among the Parsees, that what they feared had come about—the Mussulmans were searching for them in order to execute vengeance upon them for Mr. Jalbhoy's unfortunate publication. They immediately closed their doors and windows, and men, women, and children ran to corners in their houses where they thought they would be safe. The closed houses were to the mob a sufficient indication that they were inhabited by Parsees, and with shrieking of "Din, din!" and blasphemous epithets hurled at all Parsees, the troop of Arabs and Seedees proceeded to demolish the obnoxious dwellings. One of the first houses attacked was Mr. Framjee Bhicajee's. Mr. Framjee is a police inspector, which alone was a reason for the mob marking him down. The barricaded doors and windows were soon broken open, and then the furniture met the same fate. When the rioters had quitted the house on their destructive errand to another, we saw four Parsee women, two of them with their children in their arms, sitting weeping among their broken chairs and tables. Mr. Framjee was severely hurt; it is astonishing that he escaped worse usage. The rioters made next for the Alibaug and Fire Temple. Here they commenced a shameful career of destruction and defilement of the places and things held by Parsees to be among the most sacred belongings of their religion. The trees in the compound were torn down, and their largest branches

seized and converted into battering rams, before which every door in the place fell rapidly. The benches employed by the worshippers were smashed; the godowns where the Parsees keep the stores which they use on feast days were forced open, barrels were staved in, so that the rioters had to wade through their contents, and lotas in hundreds were damaged, while many more found places in the pockets of the mob. The larger meeting house was next entered; presses were broken open, and prayer-books taken from them, torn up, and strewed upon the ground; benches were broken, stanchions were wrenched from the windows; and the lid was torn off the sacred well, and the waters therein defiled by spittings and filthy slippers. Leaving this scene, a rush was made for the agiary proper, a place which corresponds with the Holy of Holies, and is regarded by Parsees with as much veneration as the Hebrews regarded that sacred place. Here the "everlasting fire," which smouldered in censers raised upon stone slabs, was thrown out and the censers were dashed against the wall. It was in vain that the old priest Dossabhoy Dadachanjee stood up to protect his charges. A portion of the mob rushed over the low stone parapet behind which, like the veil of the temple, no man but the priest is ever permitted to enter, and threw the embers of the fire about, kicking away the bits of sandal-wood which fed it, and heaping other indignities upon the place. Another portion broke open the presses, and seized and tore up the ancient sacred writings which they contained. Yet another portion—perhaps the portion which had a predilection for the lotahs—took the priest's chamber by storm, and broke open his chests, from which they carried away Rs. 2,000 in currency notes and all the clothes the old man had. "Deen, deen!" the cry was raised again, and in a body the mob left the Alibaugh and rushed across the way to the house occupied by Mr. Jejeebhoy Dhunjeebhoy, a near relation of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, which they at once proceeded to wreck. Mr. Jejeebhoy, who is an old man, much respected in the Parsee community—all reasons for the mob singling him out for an attack—had barricaded his windows and doors on the lower floor, and was somewhat satisfied that the mob would not be able to force admittance. He was quickly undeceived. Some of the rioters tore the window stanchions from their sockets, others seized the heavy parts of the Alibaug trees, and with these weapons the doors and windows were broken open. The old man, who had placed a ladder in readiness at a back part of his house, at once made his escape by that means, but nearly tumbled into a deep well which stood under the ladder. He locked himself up in an adjoining stable, and with his maid servant and a female relative he remained there until the rioters had quitted his house, which was more than an hour after they entered it. The rascals were in luck that they had so much time to complete their work of thieving and wanton destruction; had the police been more alert they could not have finished that work so perfectly. We entered the house yesterday afternoon, and we can safely say we never saw a more complete wreck. Valuable furniture, rare glasses, old and cherished family pictures, silk dresses, silver lamps, costly Chinese work boxes, timepieces—all lay smashed and spoiled, and mixed in an almost undistinguishable heap. Not a pane of glass in the windows was left entire, pictures of Persian kings and heroes that were fixed too high for a man to reach had been hacked by clubs or iron hooks, locks were wrenched off, and sacred writings, many hundred years old, and cherished heirlooms of Mr. Jejeebhoy's family, were torn into bits, and scattered over the windows. All the valuables in the house were stolen; one beautifully-lacquered Chinese trunk, in which Mr. Jejeebhoy's daughter kept her jewellery, was smashed open, while every ounce of gold and silver was stolen. What the scoundrels could not take away conveniently they threw out of the windows, and in the streets bundles of white clothes, and silk and satin female dresses, were clutched at and scrambled for by hundreds of wretches who had been unable to enter the house. So intense was the thirst for plunder that pools of blood near one or two of Mr. Jejeebhoy's chests, and upon some of the clothes which had not been taken away, marked where the rioters like wild beasts had fought, and bit, and scratched in order to get first at the valuables. Mr. Jejeebhoy was in a pitiful state when we saw him standing among the wreck of his furniture. "It is true," he said, "that I have a house (pointing to the walls), but I have no bed, nor have I any oil for to-night." He realised his painful position keenly—the way in which he said "he had no oil for to-night" was a most pathetic indication of the extent of the old man's ruin. While the men who plundered his house were at their work, another portion were engaged in breaking into the Parsee shops in the street. The dispensary of Mr. Pestonjee Muncherjee was wrecked. A large case full of bottles of medicines and chemicals was smashed into atoms, so that the floor was strewn with chips of coloured glass, while the place was filled with an overpowering smell. Mr. Pestonjee's compounder, who had managed to make good his escape, had his money chest and all his clothes taken away. The dispensary

was a complete wreck—nothing in it—chairs, tables, desks, or bottles—could be saved so as to be of use again. The shop of Mr. Converjee Eduljee, a liquor merchant, had been broken into, and brandy, wine, and beer bottles were smashed, while the cocks of the barrels of wine and beer had been turned on and left to run until the shop was flooded and the casks were emptied. His desk had been broken open, and his money and his books were stolen. The man told us he was ruined. Another Parsee merchant had his godown ransacked, and what the rioters could not carry away they destroyed. All this took place in Shaik Abdool Street, but while the circumstances we have just related were transpiring, the riot was also going on in the Null Bazaar, where Parsee shops and houses were looted in the same disgraceful way. A fire-temple in Bhendy Bazaar was treated as the Allmaugh had been—the sacred well was defiled, the sacred writings were torn, and the sacred fire was quenched. A number of Parsees were seriously injured—one man was lying last night in the Jamsetjee Hospital in such a dangerous state from a fracture inflicted on the base of his skull that his life was uncertain. Of course there were many rumours yesterday in the Fort that a number of Parsees had been killed, but this, we are glad to say, was not the case. When we inquired at the Jamsetjee Hospital yesterday evening, the Parsee was still alive, and none of the other six who had been wounded was in a dangerous state. Altogether, fifteen persons had been taken to the Hospital in the course of the day; eight were dismissed after their wounds had been dressed, and only the remaining seven were retained. Of the latter, one case is rather a melancholy one. A chasse, who was going home quietly through Shaik Abdool Street, near Pydownie, was suddenly assailed by seven or eight Parsees, who broke both his legs. The poor fellow had known nothing of the riot, and the Parsees must have been labouring under extraordinary excitement when they attacked him.

It may be inquired, while all this was going on, where were the police? It was certainly very unfortunate that the rioters were unchecked for fully two hours before the police put in an appearance. Doubtless, when Mr. Souter and Mr. Edginton heard of the riot, they were on the spot soon afterwards, but there must have been mismanagement somewhere, otherwise the Commissioner of Police and the Deputy would have heard of the riot sooner than appears to have been the case. It seems that when the few police sepoys who were on duty saw the rioters, they naturally ran away to tell the European inspectors, seeing that they would have been helpless if they ventured to face the mob alone. We suppose that it took some time for the news to filter from sepoy to European inspector, and inspector to Commissioner—at all events, the fact remains that the riot commenced at one o'clock, and was not checked until three, and during these two hours the whole of Bombay might have been looted by any scoundrels who chose to do so. Mr. Souter and Mr. Edginton arrived at the scene of the riot in the fire-engine brake, and, with some mounted police and a body of sepoys, set vigorously to work to capture the rioters, about five hundred of whom were hotly engaged in their nefarious work. Considerable excitement existed for a moment or two when the police and the rioters met, but the rabble did not seem disposed to stand an encounter with their better equipped antagonists and began to fly in every direction. Some extraordinary hunts then took place—one powerful Seedee was knocked down first by sowars and then by sepoys at least half-a-dozen times before he was finally laid hold of; and several variations of this circumstance took place. The upshot of the encounter was that the police dispersed the rioters and took over a hundred of them prisoners. The majority of the prisoners are low Arabs and Seedees, men who, one would think, cared more for thieving and violence than for the Koran and all the Prophets that ever were born. They must have been excited to yesterday's violence, in the first place by some scheming Mahomedan better informed than they are themselves, and in the next by the hope of plunder. Much sympathy ought to rest with the Parsee community who have been made the victims of such unscrupulous scoundrels. That the Parsees were panic-stricken we had abundant evidence yesterday. In the houses in Shaik Abdool Street many an anxious face, chiefly belonging to women and children, appeared at the windows; and wherever Parsee men stood in the streets they were huddled in groups. The Mahomedan population of Bombay is enormously more numerous than the Parsees, and the latter had therefore every cause to feel alarmed. They complain bitterly of the police, and they hoped that until the Moharrum is over the peace will be sustained by military. Last night, a detachment of native infantry was kept in readiness and police patrolled the streets, and we have heard of no disturbances taking place after dark, although this was very much feared by the Parsees, who argued that if their houses had been wrecked in broad daylight themselves would surely be murdered during the night. Mr. Souter and Mr. Edginton were also constantly in the saddle, endeavouring to restore public confidence by

their presence, and dispersing groups of Mussulmans wherever these had gathered. Occurring immediately before the Moharram, this riot has a most serious aspect, and we think the Commissioner of Police will be justified in recommending to the Governor that this year taboot processions should be entirely put a stop to.

Curiously enough, on the day on which this riot took place, a *Government Gazette* extraordinary announced Mr. Souter's appointment as a Fellow of the Bombay University. The spontaneous indignation which sprang up in Bombay because of the carelessness of the police found immediate expression in the leading columns of the *Bombay Gazette* of the 14th February :—

We suppose it must have been as a mark of recognition of his services in letting a mob of Mussulman scoundrels run riot for two or three hours on Friday in the native town, kill and maim peaceful citizens, wreck valuable property, and defile the sacred temples of certainly as loyal a class of subjects as Her Majesty has in all her wide dominions, that Mr. Frank H. Souter, the Chief Commissioner of Police, was on the same day gazetted a Fellow of the University of Bombay. For our part, we think that, unless Mr. Souter can give some satisfactory explanation of the extraordinary failure on Friday of the force under his command to protect life and property in this city from a set of ruffians whose designs have been the common talk of Bombay for some days past, he deserves to be removed from his appointment. We shall not be suspected of feeling any special sympathy with the Parsees ; but what is the use of a police force, of what value indeed is the Government itself, if orderly, industrious, respectable citizens cannot be guarded against such outrages as were committed on Friday? The population of Bombay gives us a rule very little trouble to the police. Crimes of violence are remarkably few, and there is really but one turbulent element amongst us, that of the dregs of the Mussulman community. Bombay, being the port of shipment for pilgrims to Mecca, has become a convenient halting place, not merely for pious and well-disposed Mahomedans, but for fanatical rowdies from all parts of India, who think they show their zeal for the faith by ceaselessly intriguing against society and plotting the destruction of every man who refuses to believe that Mahomet is the Prophet of God. They are a contemptible enough foe, if dealt with properly ; but, left to themselves, they never fail to take advantage of the ferment in the Mussulman mind about the time of the Moharrum to incite their co-religionists to acts of anarchy. This year, the pretence made use of by these agitators to work mischief under was the publication by a Parsee of a perfectly harmless book—a Guzeratee translation of Washington Irving's *Life of Mahomet*. Some vile intriguer affected to discover in the quite innocent expression about a concubine to which we referred on Friday a deadly insult to the Prophet and all his followers: and with this weapon he stirred into new life the smouldering embers of the old feeling of hatred which the Mussulmans bear to the whole Parsee race. The result is told in our description of the disgraceful riot of Friday, which nobody can read without feeling deep sympathy with the Parsees, and intense indignation at the conduct of the police in letting the rioters do what they liked for fully two hours before attempting to interfere. It is not as if Mr. Souter had not foreseen that there might be an outbreak of this kind. He knew what agitation prevailed amongst the Mussulmans, for, influenced by this knowledge, he persuaded the poor Parsee translator to withdraw his book from publication. He alleges, by way of excuse for his inaction, that at a meeting of Mahomedans held the other evening to discuss what should be done there was no talk of using force, and that the proceedings at the Mosque on Friday morning, the usual weekly prayer day, were also quite orderly. But there is no doubt that the Mahomedans assembled in unusual numbers at the Mosque, and that the inhabitants of the neighbouring streets took alarm long before the fanatical rioters rushed out, shouting "Deen, Deen!" to rob and murder defenceless citizens, and to violate the sanctity of the Parsee fire-temples. Why, then, we ask, did Mr. Souter leave this quarter of the town unprotected by a force strong enough to overawe and disperse the rioters? He had full warning what might happen; yet for two hours not a policeman nor a soldier appeared on the scene. We believe

that in making these remarks we have not in the least exaggerated the negligence of the police, which was gross enough to demand an immediate and strict inquiry by Government into the reasons of Mr. Souter's conduct. If the Parsee community cannot get justice done them by the local Government in this matter, they will be perfectly justified in holding a public meeting and drawing up a statement of their wrongs for the information of the Secretary of State. It is necessary that the Mussulman ruffians who have so long infested Bombay, and who are a terror and a disgrace even to the respectable men of their own creed, should be put down at once with a strong hand; and, if Mr. Souter cannot do this, he ought to be removed in order to make way for some one who can and will.

That the tone of this article was justified is supported by the following extracts from leading articles which were published in the two other local journals on the same date:—

Why an adequate force was not on the ground in the neighbourhood of the Jumma Musjid from an early hour in the morning, is an omission which obviously requires explanation. The apprehension of disturbance, if not outrage, was, it seems, keenly felt by several of the well disposed Mullahs, and by some of our well known Mussulman citizens. Messrs. Alli Mahomed Rogay and Jairaj Peerbhoy, together with some of the Mullahs, we are told, spoke earnestly to the crowd assembled in the Musjid, dissuading them from disturbance; but the temper of the mob may be inferred from the fact, as alleged, that these dissuasives were hurled back with derision. The exciteable condition of the lower orders of the Mussulman population ought to have been well known to the Commissioner of Police. Considering the length he had gone in his efforts to conciliate the "faithful," he ought not to have been so far thrown off his guard as to permit of this alarming ebullition of mob violence to take him, as it were, unawares.—*Times of India.*

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We fear that the *emeute* of yesterday is not calculated to excite much confidence in the powers of the police to prevent disturbance. The riot was no sudden outbreak prompted on the spot, and under the influence of strong provocation, but a deliberate and premeditated act. As if, at one word, the Mussulman population of the Bhendy Bazaar, or rather from the Crawford Markets to the Sir Jamsetjee Hospital, rose up in riot, and although such an outbreak had been fully expected, there was only the usual number of policemen in the streets. The police, we are told, profess to have had information that the difficulty had been arranged, but with so large a number of Mahomedan constables in the force, it is hardly possible that they could have been ignorant of the impending riot; or if they were, such ignorance was decidedly culpable, considering how openly the fears of the Parsee public had been expressed. After the manifestation of yesterday, there can, however, be no doubt regarding the dangerous feelings that are prevading the lower ranks of the Mahomedan community, nor will there be any excuse for Government if a similar scene is allowed to occur again. With such disturbances the military are better qualified to deal than the police, and when the public peace in a presidency town is at stake, we hope Sir Philip Wodehouse will not scruple to order out troops, should another outbreak be likely to occur.—*Indian Statesman.*

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On Saturday the 14th, Bombay was again in a terrible state of excitement, and rumours of disturbances in various parts of the native town were continually reaching residents in the Fort. The Mahomedan roughs were naturally elated at the mischief they had done, and the Parsees were simply panic-stricken, for they had no confidence in the police, and, believing as they did that the appetite of their enemies for plunder and revenge had only been whetted, they looked forward with absolute dismay to what might possibly happen to them during the Moharrum, which was to begin on the following Wednesday. Stories of assaults on individual Parsees as of meditated attacks on Parsee houses or temples in different parts of the island were greedily circulated and implicitly believed in, though for the time they had little or no foundation. While the main body of the rioters on Friday were wrecking Parsee property in Abdool Rahmon Street and the Bhendy Bazaar, a

similar disturbance occurred in Khetwaddy, where the Parsees residing in Ardeshir Dady Street and the neighbourhood were attacked by some three hundred Mussulmans armed with sticks and stones. The Parsees shut themselves up in their houses and threw down tiles from the roofs on their assailants. Doors and windows were smashed, and the rioters made desperate efforts to enter some of the houses but were repulsed. Several persons were injured in the affray, including some women. The rioters were weavers and bhungees occupying the space between Grant Road and Falkland Road; and their ring-leader, a weaver named Cassim, was arrested. A detachment of police with two European inspectors was stationed at the corner of Ardeshir Dady Street. On the following morning the Khetwaddy mob again made a demonstration. In numbers about the same as on the day before they advanced shouting and flourishing sticks, but were quickly driven back by the police. Near Grant Road a series of scrimmages took place, and in one of them a Mahomedan weaver named Hyadeen Ahmed received a blow on the head from a stone, and he was taken to the Jamsetjee Hospital, where he died early on Sunday morning. On Saturday night a Parsee named Dadabhoy Rustomjee, who had been taken to the Hospital on the night of the Riot on the 13th with a fractured skull and a contused wound on the head, breathed his last. During the forenoon the whole neighbourhood of Khetwaddy was greatly excited, and a number of chases after individual Parsees by Mahomedans were taking place continually, and sometimes the Parsees were found on the offensive. The London Hotel, in Grant Road, kept by Parsees, was attacked, and the windows in it smashed. But excepting the case of Hyadeen no fatal occurrence took place. Up to 4 o'clock, however, in the afternoon the mob had not dispersed, and rumours were current that a night attack would be made by them on the houses of the Parsees. Great excitement and anxiety prevailed throughout the neighbourhood. The Parsees armed themselves with heavy clubs and lined Ardeshir Dady Street, resolved apparently to defend themselves, while the windows were crowded with frightened women. An English gentleman, returning to the Byculla Club from Malabar Hill at night, had his carriage stopped in this part of the town by a crowd of Parsees, who implored him to help in protecting them, as they were in momentary expectation of being set upon by a mob of Mahomedans who were following a dead body to the Girgaum burial-ground. The night, however, passed without any disturbance, but no Parsees could be persuaded that the risk was over, and very few indeed of them ventured to go alone through any part of the native town in which there was a Mussulman population. It seemed easy to smile at such fears; but if any one who fancied the Parsees were frightened without sufficient cause had visited the houses and fire-temples which were sacked by the rioters he would have been convinced that their alarm was anything but groundless.

In the forenoon of Saturday, the 14th, Mr. Byramjee Jejeebhoy, Mr. Dinshaw Manockjee Petit, and a number of other leading Parsees, accompanied by several European gentlemen, went over the houses and temples that had been wrecked on the previous day, and observed with what ferocity and thoroughness the rioters had done their work of devastation. The loss of property was found to be very serious, the rioters seeming to have destroyed in a spirit of pure devilry, smashing things valuable and valueless in a heap. One man who had had his head cut open and his body all bruised declared he had been robbed of Rs. 6,000, and his relatives passionately upbraided the "settias," asking them of what use they were if they could not protect their own people. At the fire-temple in the Bhendy Bazaar a Parsee indignantly exclaimed, on seeing the broken and defiled censer in which the sacred fire used to burn, "It was to avoid such treatment as this that we left Persia, and now are

we to suffer like things as British subjects?" Crowds of curious Mahomedans stood in the streets, but so far as could be seen none of them were armed even with sticks, and they contented themselves with scowling or laughing, according to their fancy, at the Parsees as they drove by.

In the afternoon a meeting to take steps to alleviate the distress apprehended from the Famine in Bengal was held in the Town Hall, but His Excellency the Governor, who presided, did not make any allusion to the Riots, notwithstanding that he may have noticed how few Parsees comparatively had come forward to join the meeting. After the meeting a deputation, consisting of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Mr. Byramjee Jejeebhoy, and Mr. Dinshaw Manockjee Petit, proceeded to Parell and had an interview with Sir Philip Wodehouse. They asked that the military might be called out and martial law proclaimed. His Excellency replied that the time had not come yet for such a measure. Whether Sir Philip Wodehouse judged well was shown by the proceedings of the following morning.

The result of Friday's and Saturday's proceedings may be gathered from the following list:—In addition to some nine or ten others whose wounds were attended to the following persons were admitted to the Jamsetjee Hospital on these days:—

Dadabhoy Rastomjee—Contused wound of head: fracture of skull. Died at 5-30 P. M. on the 14th. Case before a Coroner's jury.

Syed Ameer—Laceration of tongue: contused wound. In hospital now.

Sheriad—Suspected fracture of skull. In hospital now. A serious case.

Doraibjee Byramjee—Contused wounds of face. In hospital.

Cassem Yacoob—Fracture of left leg—contused wounds. In hospital. A serious case.

Hossein Mohideen—Fracture of lower jaw. In hospital.

Manockjee Byramjee—Suspected fracture of skull—contused wounds—Removed by friends. A very serious case.

Shaik Ahmed—Three lacerated scalp wounds. In hospital.

Hyadeen Ahmed—Fracture of skull—contused wound. Died 2 A.M., 15th February.

Framjee Merwanjee—Contused wound of scalp. In hospital.

Nizamoodeen Cureemburr—Contusion and injury to spine. In hospital. A serious case.

## THE FATAL RIOT AT SONAPORE ON SUNDAY THE 15th FEBRUARY.

On Sunday forenoon a dreadfully severe renewal of the disturbances of Friday took place, and, though no property appears to have been injured, yet half-a-dozen lives were lost and the excitement between the rival communities became more intense than ever. On this occasion the majority of those who were fatally wounded were Mahomedans. A large band of Mahomedans, among whom were many Arabs and Seedies, carried a body to the graveyard in Sonapore. As this graveyard is situated in a part of the native town which has to be reached through streets occupied chiefly by Parsees, the presence there of the Mahomedan funeral procession doubtless excited the Parsees to a terrible extent. Shortly after the Mahomedans had entered the graveyard a riot took place. The Mussulmans alleged that stones had been thrown over the wall at the body by Parsees, and they swarmed out to attack their foes. The collision was tremendous, and the reckoning in broken bones and lives lost was a heavy one. Who was to blame? That question is exceedingly difficult to answer, for the Parsees blame the Mahomedans and these the Parsees. The police allege that the Parsees commenced the disturbance by throwing stones. But even if this were the case, there can be little doubt that the Mahomedans had defiantly paraded through the Parsees streets, and onwards to the grave-

yard, with the object of having a riot. Bludgeons are not, so far as we have heard, a necessary part of a Mahomedan funeral procession; yet on this occasion most of the mourners were armed with lethal weapons of various descriptions, and they used them to the best of their ability. The police fell lamentably short of their duty. Why did they permit the Mahomedans to go towards the graveyard with bludgeons? Surely it cannot be urged that these were found in the dead man's grave! Why were the police not present in such numbers as to prevent a free fight? Could common sense not have suggested to the police authorities that nothing was more probable than a dangerous riot if the Mussulmans were allowed, without a very large military or police escort, to proceed through the Parsee quarter so soon after the whole Parsee community had been thrown into alarm and indignation by Mahomedan attacks, not only upon the property of countrymen whom they respected, but upon the sacred places connected with their religion? Had it been impossible for these questions ever to be put, the lamentable particulars following would never have had to be penned. Under the expressive title "The Reign of Anarchy in Bombay" we find in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 16th February the following narrative by a well-known Bombay journalist:—

Encouraged, probably, by their success on Friday, the riotous elements of the population of Bombay held high carnival yesterday. It was the day of the annual fair at Walkeshwur, and the road round Back Bay to Malabar Hill was, as is usual on such occasions, thronged with crowds of peaceful, gaily dressed, happy looking Hindoo families, whose innocent satisfaction with their own lot and with life in general revealed them at a glance as, to use Sir B. Frere's judicious phrase, "a people made to be governed." Meanwhile, the parts of the native town inhabited by Parsees and Mussulmans were given over to the mimicry of a lawless mob. As personal experience is of more value than any amount of hearsay evidence, I trust the public will excuse me for the seeming egotism of stating exactly what happened to myself. It may help to throw light on the condition to which Bombay has been brought by the incredible apathy of the Government.

Between half-past ten and eleven yesterday morning, I saw some Parsees running down the Marine Lines evidently in a state of extreme agitation, and immediately afterwards a European constable drove up to Colonel Scott's bungalow, the Brigadier being at church, and asked him in Mr. Souter's name to send out the company of the 20th N.I. which had been held in readiness for two days to assist the civil power. Just afterwards, Rowjee, the Mussulman manager of Jaffer Sullimun's shop in the Fort, called to see me on business; and, without thinking that there might be some risk in going out with such a companion, I said he might take me with him in his shigram to see what was going on. We drove past the Framjee Cowasjee Institute on to the Girgaum Road, and, as soon as we reached the Parsee quarter beginning at the Money School, we observed that the road was crowded with Parsees, who were all armed with long and heavy bludgeons and were shouting and gesticulating with the utmost energy. As we went on, the crowd grew thicker, and close to the Parsee fire-temple, about a hundred of them, some, I noticed, disguised as Mahomedans, came round the ghurry with sticks raised, threatening to assault us. The sticks were very formidable shillelaghs, and things began to look very uncomfortable. Some respectable Parsees, however, recognized me and tried to keep the roughs quiet, crying out—"Don't be afraid, Mr. Maclean, no one wants to hurt you." I called to the coachman to stop and was getting out to remonstrate with the club-wielders, when Rowjee, with more sense, shouted to the man to drive on as fast as he could. The Parsees, in fact, had the ghurry stopped, were quite in the mood to beat my Mussulman companion to death. The horse went off at a gallop, amidst the yells of the Parsees, and for several minutes, along two or three hundred yards of the Girgaum Road, in the middle of the day, with only two police constables to be seen for that whole distance, the open shigram we were in was exposed to a perfect hail of clubs hurled with right good will by Parsees lining the road on either side. Fortunately, the tramway is not being laid down this road, so that there were no loose stones at hand for our friends to throw at us, or we should possibly have been seriously injured. As it was, the long clubs, though very savagely thrown, were warded off by the sides and roof of the ghurry, and we escaped without

hurt. At Jaffer Sulliman's place in Girgaum I got another conveyance and a Mahratta coachman, and drove back with another European gentleman and a Parsee to have a talk with the Parsees. I had the presumption to think that, as there appeared to be no Government in Bombay, I might perhaps do something by my own personal influence to induce men who are generally peaceful and well-disposed to give up taking the law into their own hands. As soon as I re-entered the Parsee quarter, the people came thronging round the carriage, and offered the most profuse apologies for what had occurred. They assured me that they had the greatest respect for me and that their only object had been to demolish Jaffer Sulliman's man. I suggested that it had been rather an awkward mistake for me, and then went on to urge that nothing could justify them in thrashing even a Mussulman who had given them no cause of offence and was quite helpless to resist them. They all with one voice exclaimed that the police would not protect their homes and temples, and what were they to do? Were they to sit still and be murdered by their enemies? They entreated me to come and see the men wounded by Mussulman rioters that very morning, and to observe that even up to that moment there was no guard set upon their fire-temple. As the carriage went slowly along, the crowd of excited Parsees, all talking together, always gathering force, Mr. Souter, accompanied by Superintendent Mills and half a dozen sowars, turned out of a side street leading from the Mahomedan burial-ground and cantered along the road. He reined in his horse when he saw me, and I got out and said to him, that surely this sort of thing ought not to be allowed to go on. He said, "Well, what am I to do? I am working night and day to keep the peace, but we have no police force. The Bench of Justices chose to cut down the strength of the European mounted police; half a dozen of whom would be of more use to me now than a hundred natives." I suggested, "But you surely might call out the military and issue a proclamation commanding the people not to assemble in disorderly crowds with sticks in their hands, but to keep in their houses?" He replied, "The military have been called out" (there were none at the time in the neighbourhood); "and it is the Parsees who are to blame for the whole row. There were some Mussulmans peacefully burying a corpse in the Sonapore graveyard, and the Parsees began the riot by throwing stones and sticks at them from the adjoining houses. I am going to tell the Governor now that it is all the Parsees' own fault."

I told Mr. Souter I had had personal experience that there were Parsee as well as Mussulman roughs, and added, that it seemed to me the Government ought to keep the peace, no matter who was originally to blame. Mr. Souter then rode off, and I went into a big Parsee house next door to the fire-temple, in which I saw three seriously wounded Parsees who were having their hurts dressed by Dr. Furdoonjee Servai of the Grant Medical College. The doctor showed me on the head of one of these men two deep cuts which had evidently been made by some sharp instrument: and it is believed that the Scedee vagabonds who form the chief fighting strength of the Mussulman mob carry small hatchets concealed about them, as well as clubs and stones. I spoke warmly to the Parsees present, many of them well-known men, about the impropriety of the conduct of their people in opposing force to force, and they all said, "We shall be perfectly satisfied to remain quietly at home, if the Government will only give us a corporal's guard to protect our fire-temple." I noticed that some policemen had come up by this time, but the Parsees will not trust the police, the force being composed principally of Mussulmans who, they say, sympathize with the rioters.

I then tried to get the Parsee account of how the row began, and this, in substance, is their story. They assert that the Mahomedans, to the number of about 400, marched down to the Sonapore burial-ground armed with sticks, and that on their way from Bholeshwur these men attacked two Parsees who with difficulty found shelter in a Hindoo house. A Bunniah, Narotum Harrilall by name, can, I was informed, be produced as a witness to prove this fact. Arrived at the burial-ground, which is overlooked by some lofty Parsee houses, the Mussulmans, according to the statements of the Parsees, began the riot by throwing stones at the windows, and afterwards sallied out into the streets and maltreated every Parsee they met. On this occasion, the Parsees were prepared to defend themselves, and the result was that one man on each side was killed and many were severely injured. The statement of the police, on the other hand, is that it was the Parsees who first threw missiles from their windows into the grave-yard, and that the Mahomedans would have gone home without doing any mischief if they had not been first attacked. Mr. Souter himself maintains this side of the story with the utmost vehemence, but the Parsees unanimously declared that the Chief Commissioner of Police is bitterly prejudiced against them. I should hesitate to say anything

further on this subject—for nothing can be more distasteful to me personally than to have to say a word against a man for whom I have always had a sincere liking and respect—but it appears to me that I am bound to publish a statement, which was made and signed in my presence yesterday at the house of Mr. Byramjee Dadabhoy, Registrar of Bombay, by several well-known Parsees who are quite ready to come forward, along with Mr. Byramjee himself, to testify to the truth of the statement. These gentlemen affirm, then, that, as Mr. Souter was riding past Mr. Byramjee's house in one of the side-streets leading from the Churney Road to the Girgaum Road, all the inhabitants being out in their verandahs and talking of course their hardest, he called out:—"Damn you Parsees, you have provoked this row. The Mussulmans were quite orderly, but you provoked the row." Mr. Byramjee Dadabhoy—"But, sir, one of our Parsees is killed." Mr. Souter—"I am very glad of it, and I should like to see all the Parsees killed, and I will tell the Governor not to help the Parsees, and I will remove all the police force." Mr. N. R. Ranina—"Sir, it's a great slur upon the Parsees." Mr. Souter—"Damn you, who are you? Sowar, take him up"—and then Mr. Souter with his stick raised rode up the steps and was going to beat the man, but he changed his mind, and rode away. Of course, Mr. Souter did not mean what he said; he only spoke in his haste, when he was irritated beyond measure by what had occurred at the burial-ground; but it is a serious thing when the chief of the police cannot refrain from making injudicious speeches of this kind instead of keeping his judgment cool to deal fairly with rioters of all creeds.

The object of this narrative is, simply to state my experiences and leave the public to form their own opinion on the subject. I have tried to speak impartially of Mussulmans and Parsees, and to describe as accurately as I could the state of confusion into which the city of Bombay has been allowed to drift.

J. M. MACLEAN.

Bombay, Feb. 16, 1874.

Mr. Maclean's argument to show the melancholy condition of affairs prevailing in Bombay is supported by the following account of the Sonapore Riot which appeared in the *Indian Statesman* of the 16th February from an "Eye-witness," the correctness of some of whose statements, it is fair to mention, has been challenged by the Parsees :—

The locality about Dhobie Talao was yesterday the scene of a riot, far more serious than that in Bottlewallah's Mollah on Friday. But on this occasion, the Parsees were the victorious party, and the Mahomedans were helplessly at their mercy. I got information and went to the spot at 11 o'clock, which was at least an hour after the disturbance began. At this time the Dhobie Talao main road, which afterwards becomes the Breach Candy Road, was thronged with Hindoos, Parsees, and Portuguese, for a quarter of a mile down from the Money School. In all the cross-streets also and bye-lanes to the right and left the excitement was intense. There was not a Mussulman to be seen till I went down Sonapore lane to the Mahomedan burying-ground. Within the enclosure, and about the entrance, I saw about thirty Mahomedans talking loudly about an attack which had been made upon them by the Parsees, and which they had been worsted. Every few minutes, two or three of them, who had ventured up the lane towards the main street where the riot was raging, came scampering back to the burying-ground with the report that the Parsees were advancing. From here I walked on to the main street again, and moved up and down for about half an hour, having left my buggy in a quiet corner. There were several hundred Parsees going to and fro in a state of the highest excitement, nearly every man of them armed with a club or thick stick. The Hindoos and other classes not in the quarrel were talking over what they had seen, giving the most inconsistent and contradictory reports of the occurrences. Occasionally there was to be seen some new excitement and running together of people at some particular spot. I would go up and find a Mahomedan lying, just murdered by the Parsees. These were shouting triumphantly. I heard one call out in English, "He well deserved it." I was five times witness of an occurrance like this; in each case the victim was lying motionless, with the blood streaming from one or more wounds in his head. The brain was protruding from the fractured skull of one, another had an eye partly knocked out, and blood was coming out of the ear of a third. These three I concluded to be dead. All five were Mahomedans, two being Soedees, and three Bombay Mussulmans; one of the latter was an old man with a short grey beard. Up to the time I left this locality—half-past 11—I saw but two European policemen, but I was told as I was going away that the Commissioner had just passed in hot haste. He had heard the news at Mazagon, and had galloped to the scene. There were a

great number of police sepoys, but except for taking the wounded to hospital, they would have been better away. I cannot say anything new about their stupidity and indifference for the inaction of natives when their houses are on fire or their wives or sisters in the water, has often been described. They were simply doing nothing, unless occasionally to clear a space for a passing carriage. Not a club-man was disarmed, nor the least attempt made to arrest turbulent rioters. Had they even had the spirit to hurry off to the other districts of Bombay where our paltry European force has been stationed in twos and threes since Friday, they might have brought men enough to check the rampant spirit of the Parsees. But no such aid would they render. A Portuguese gentleman, in charge of a dispensary in the locality, assured me that when the riot broke out he had urged the sepoy on duty to inform the Inspector or Superintendent at once, but that the man would not move a step. The time the police were in putting in an appearance, was a subject in everybody's mouth, and they would very likely not have appeared even when they did, had not the Commissioner passed through the scene at the time my informant saw him. As it was, on my return about half-past 12, the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and five or six constables were there; also the Municipal Commissioner and Major Payne Barras. The crowd was then dispersed, and battakees were being beaten to give warning that either Parsee or Mussulman found out-of-doors would be taken into custody. But till half-past 11 there were only two Europeans at hand that I saw, and these were doing their utmost; but such was the excitement, that unless the street had been cleared by a charge, somebody worthy the name of a man would require to be posted at every fifty yards' interval. Assaults occured in the presence of the native sepoys, without their caring or daring to raise a finger, and the two Europeans on the scene had only to turn their backs, when there would be an outbreak. After the occurrence of the five murderous assaults I have enumerated, I was walking down one of the cross-streets, down which a European Inspector had just passed before me. All at once I heard a cry and a shout in the yard of a Hindoo house on my right, and over the wall I could see sticks striking. Jumping up on the wall, I saw five Parsees give the finishing stroke to a wretched Mussulman whom they had found concealed in a corner of the yard. His skull was beaten in, and blood was running over the ground. I entered the yard accompanied by two police sepoys who were present, and there I saw an exhibition of cowardice, selfishness, and treachery which will hardly be credited. A respectably dressed Hindoo—Purbhoo I should think and I believe the master of the house—rushed up to the sepoys and looked at their numbers saying, "You killed this man." Being anxious, if possible, to understand the exact state of feeling among the natives at this time, I asked the Hindoo, in the manner of a casual bystander, what he meant. Instantly the five murderers with their sticks surrounded us, and in vociferous tones told the Hindoo to adhere to his story. The sepoy at once proceeded to clear out, but I went after them, dragged them back, and told them to do their duty, seizing the Hindoo, who was breathless with terror. I hurried him out of the yard to the opposite side of the street, and after driving off two of the Parsees who had followed us, asked him confidentially what his complaint was. The coward replied, "I only said the police should be more active." Now I know the natives and their language thoroughly, and this miserable being's object in assailing the sepoys was to shield himself from all suspicion in connection with the murder, by publicly and promptly charging others with it. The Parsees, whom he had seen commit the deed, he dared not accuse, and therefore he shamelessly charged the sepoys. I mention this, as one of many instances in which I heard natives, not excepting members of the police force, laying the blame where they knew it was not due. Terror at the rioters was universal, and the people would have accused their own fathers of anything in the world rather than seem to be against the Parsees. That I did not take the numbers of the two dastardly fellows who witnessed this murder, was one of those mistakes which a man is apt to make when he loses his presence of mind. They ought to have arrested or killed every one of the five Parsees, but instead, they would not even remove the dead or dying Mohomedan to the hospital till his murderers had gone off to commit excesses elsewhere. Subsequently, after leaving that locality, I visited two chowkees and saw about 50 or 60 persons confined in one and less than half that number in the other—Mahomedans to a man, and many or most of them bruised and bleeding from blows which the police confessed were given by Parsees. I asked several of the sepoys how there happened to be no Parsee prisoners. They replied, "A riot takes place; we disperse the people, and those that remain on the spot are taken up." I said, "Have you not taken up any Parsees who were attacking people with clubs?" Reply—"Both Mussulmans and

Parsees are engaged in this disturbance." While I was there *two* sepoys marched in a Seedee whom they had found hiding in a stable with the bridge of his nose broken and a ghastly wound above his eye. He said he was a sailor, naming his ship, and had come ashore as it was Sunday; he was walking along the street when the Parsees set upon him, and he escaped with his life by taking refuge in a stable. All this took place at one chowkee. At the other, where also there were only Mahomedan prisoners, the sepoys put me off by saying, that they took into custody whomsoever the Constable Sahib ordered. The truth is that, the offer of the Commissionership of Police would not have induced one of the sepoys in the force to molest a Parsee at Dhobie Talao yesterday, and they took up nobody except such Mahomedans as escaped the vengeance of the rioters. After all I have said, I feel how inadequately I have described what I saw of the conduct of the native police. They crawled about in numbers sufficient to have made an effectual charge, but as for taking a single step to restore the peace, even the thought did not occur to them. A few sowars arrived about half-past 11 and rendered some little assistance in breaking up knots of club men. Shortly after 11 o'clock two companies of the 20th Regiment N. I. were marched down Kalbadavie and drawn up at Mombadavie, to prevent a collision between the Parsees and the main body of the Mahomedan rioters of Friday. As I left Dhobie Talao the soldiers were transferred to that quarter, where, indeed, there had all along been the greatest need of them.

And scarcely less effectively is it supported by the subjoined description of the ghastly scene in the Jamsetjee Hospital on the Sunday afternoon, which appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* on the same morning as Mr. Maclean's narrative :—

If yesterday (15th Feb.) was a severe day for the police, it was a trying one for the officers attached to the Jamsetjee Hospital. From an early hour in the forenoon until late in the evening Dr. Anderson was busy attending the injured persons, notwithstanding that it was evident some of them were beyond the reach of human skill before they entered the precincts of the hospital. To meet the sudden influx of patients special wards had to be cleared out for the accommodation of the rioters who had come to grief, and these wards we visited yesterday afternoon, thus having the opportunity of seeing one of the most ghastly spectacles that has ever come across our notice. Men when they are excited generally lose their judgment; if the Parsees and Mussulmans who transformed Bombay yesterday into a cauldron of insurrection could have seen the horrible appearance presented by some of the men in these wards it would have cured them of the passion for rioting. The spectacle of mangled faces, smashed in heads, broken arms, clots of blood, all the consequence of turbulence, is not a romantic circumstance calculated to attach the would-be rioter to a continuance of his disgraceful sport. Yesterday two dozen men were carried into the Hospital, and of these six have probably eked out their existence ere this morning —at all events, Dr. Mackenzie and the Hospital Surgeon had given them up as past their skill. Entering Ward No. 17, which was full of beds containing wounded men, we go towards one poor wretch lying near the door. Oosman Khan is his name. He has been dreadfully beaten with sticks, and now suffers from two contused wounds on his head. He is sensible when spoken to, and we learn from him that he is a servant of Colonel Schneider's; that he was passing through Borah Bazaar Street yesterday morning on his master's business; and that he was pounced upon by a large gang of Parsees and left in the condition in which we now see him. Oosman protests that he was perfectly peaceful when he was attacked, and indeed it is unlikely he would be anything else if he was alone and in Borah Bazaar Street. Near him is Saadallah Mabrook, a Seedee. He also is sensible, but suffering acutely from the effects of a pistol shot in the left buttock. He says he was attending a funeral at Sonapore when he was shot, and cannot tell who fired the pistol at him. Near him lies Juma, a Seedee, who has received a bullet through his left elbow. He says he was fired at by a European constable near Sonapore, but cannot tell who the constable was. The pain from the compound fracture in his arm makes him groan again. Our attention is attracted to a bed on the other side of the room, where a terrific face lies turned upwards apparently in the fixity of death. This poor Seedee is insensible, as he has been since he was carried into Hospital. His name is unknown—all that is known of the unfortunate being, whose closely-shaved black head is swollen with bruises, whose eyelids are glued together with congealed blood, whose heavy-drawn breath wheezes through blood-clotted nostrils, is that he was picked up on the road near Dhobie Talao by the police. A few hours more, and even those few spasmodic breathings will have ceased for ever. In an adjoining bed lies another unknown Seedee, who had also been found lying insensi-

ble on the road near Dhobie Talao. Six huge wounds are spread across his fractured head. His cheeks are swollen to twice their natural size. His upper lip is gouged through, so that the jagged edges of a red hole quiver between his nose and his mouth when he breathes. He is perfectly insensible, and will never wake again. Such a horrible face it would be beyond the most realistic painter's powers to imagine. Khan Mahomed lies in the bed adjoining. His skull is fractured, and moreover he has a large lacerated wound across his head. He belives his injuries were inflicted by the police while he was attending a funeral near Sonapore. Notwithstanding the dreadful nature of his injuries he is likely to recover. Next him lies a Seedee—an unknown—who was picked up insensible on the road near Dhobie Talao. He has a number of gashes about the head and face, and is altogether a melancholy figure as he lies insensible with a Hindoo sponging the clotted blood from his face. There is no hope of his recovery, and he is likely to remain unknown, as his face has been battered nearly past all recoguition. We pass to another part of the Hospital—Ward No. 1. Here at the door lies a Mussulman unknown, evidently dying. His life is being eked out by weak cunjee and brandy poured into his mouth, which is wide open and perfectly motionless. Both eyes are covered up by enormous swellings. In his fractured skull there is a large hole, from which blood keeps oozing out. He is quite insensible, just as he was when picked up on the road near Dhobie Talao. His breathings are slow and heavy. His rioting days are over. Close to him lies Calloo Sadut, who was found insensible on the Esplanade. He is now partially sensible, and he groans out that he was walking alone on the Esplanade when he was set upon by a band of Parsees and beaten with bludgeons. Though he has two contused wounds upon the head he is likely to recover. On the next cot lies an old man, whose face is tied up with a blood-stained handkerchief which passes beneath his chin and over his head. Hajee Ahmed is his name. The attendants whisper that he is just about to breathe his last. He is a very old man and was found lying insensible near Sonapore, and though his jaw has been badly fractured and he has sustained concussion of the brain, yet it is shock to the system that he is actually dying from. A thin, little, oldish man sits up in an adjoining cot watching the last moments of his neighbour. He himself is dangerously ill, having a lacerated wound on the ear and a contusion of the left shoulder, but in all probability this man Shaik Sahib will recover, though he is probably thinking his fate will be that of Hajee Ahmed's. He had been brought from [illegible]bie Talao. In another bed lies Caree Sut[illegible]ar, a Seedee, who was brought by the police from Dhobie Talao, where he was found lying on the ground insensible. His head is bleeding profusely from a scalp wound, but he is a big powerful fellow and is likely to recover. He is sensible. How did he come near Dhobie Talao? "He was walking there with a friend." Suddenly they were both set upon by Parsees and beaten to the earth. He cannot tell what became of his friend. Probably, however, his friend is one of the dying Seedees we have just passed away from. Here lies a poor fellow, whose wife is crouching near his pillow, crying bitterly. This is Runjan Peer Mahomed. Runjan is sensible, and tells us that he was a coachman belonging to Mr. Hormusjee Dinshaw; that yesterday morning he was on his way to present a parcel of fruit on behalf of his master to a Parsee Priest who lives in Mody Khana in the Fort; and that he was suddenly set upon by fifty or sixty Parsees with sticks. Runjan has now several contused wounds on the scalp and a fracture of the right arm, but we are glad to learn, even if it were only for the sake of the woman beside him, that he is likely to recover. But not so this Mussulman, Lucca Jeera, who is lying groaning in the corner, although he is perfectly insensible, just as he was when picked up near Dhobie Talao. He has three very severe contused wounds on the head, any one of which seems sufficient to cause his death. Attendants are now bathing his bleeding temples, but Lucca is beyond their attentions. In the opposite corner lies Muktoom Ahmed, a Seedee, who had been brought from Dhobie Talao, where he was found lying insensible. His mouth is cut open, his chin is swollen, his arm is resting before him in splints. He has sustained severe contused wounds on his scalp and face and a fracture of the right fore arm. He is sensible now, though his eyes roll wildly about, and he is unable to articulate a word. Great as his injuries are, however, there are hopes of his recovery. We pass into the Parsee ward, No. 5. Here is Merwanjee Bamun, brought from Dhobie Talao with two contused lacerated wounds along the top of his head. Both his eyes are completely closed up. He has no other injuries, and is likely to recover. Sleep has temporarily relieved him from feeling his misfortunes. Near him lies Cursetjee Jamajee, whose head is being bathed by a Parsee student. His head was broken in several places, but has been sewed up, and it is the coagulated blood round the stitches that his compatriot is

endeavouring to clear away. He was brought from the Cheera Bazaar, and his now able to say that his head had been beaten in by Seedees. It is probable he will recover. Near him lies Bairam Ardaseer, whose scalp has been torn open, though fortunately for him his skull has escaped being fractured. He says that Mussulmans had beaten him with sticks till he became insensible. Awadeen Nusserwanjee has two contused wounds on the head, and a severe lacerated wound on the left parietal, where his skull is fractured. He is a Persian, and by some mistake had received his injuries at the hands of Parsees. Though sensible, he is very severely injured, and the probability is that his hurts will end fatally. Near him, again, lies Jamsetjee Dorabjee, formerly a dubash, and evidently a man of considerable respectability. In English he told us how he had been attacked by Seedees near Sonapore. He has a severe cut over his left eye-brow, and his skull is fractured. Though sensible now, insensibility is expected to set in soon, and the medical gentlemen are of opinion that Jamsetjee has received fatal injuries. The next Parsee is Burjorjee Nanabhoy who says he was assaulted by Mussulmans near the Dhobie Talao. He has a lacerated wound on his forehead, and a punctured wound in his back. Strangely enough he says that the latter wound was caused by a blow from a bludgeon. We have now mentioned the chief cases which were admitted to the Hospital yesterday, and would call attention to the extraordinary severity of all the injuries. Not one man who was brought to the Hospital could be sent away again. When the rioters read of what their work is ending in, we trust they will stop in their present mad career of destruction of life and property.

The following is another account of the Riot which appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 16th February :—

"As the combined funeral party emerged from the gates of the Sonapore burial ground, headed by Mr. Superintendent Mills, with half a dozen policemen in the rear, their first act was to batter the doors of the Parsee houses nearest to them. No further violence was committed until they approached the mouth of the Sonapore lane; and here a Parsee received severe wounds, which bled profusely. The man was conveyed to the hospital, where he lies in a precarious state. Arrived at the entrance to the lane, the party found themselves face to face with a mob of Parsees who had collected from different parts of the neighbourhood. The Seedees insisted upon being allowed to go towards the Hormusjee Wadia Fire-temple, a direction opposite to that from which they came. Mr. Mills, it is alleged, was willing to allow them to do so, but the assembled Parsees protested, asseverating that the primary object of the Seedees, as they had been confidentially informed on the preceding night, was an attack upon the fire-temples. An altercation ensued, and it is difficult to make out which party were the immediate aggressors. The handful of policemen present were utterly useless, and they blame the Parsees, who, on the other hand, accuse them of favouring the Mussulmans. Blows were exchanged; and two Seedees were seriously wounded, one of whom was not expected to survive his injuries. The Seedees seriously wounded half a dozen Parsees, two or three of whom are said to be beyond the hope of recovery. They battered the doors of some of the Parsee houses, broke windows on the groundfloor, and threw showers of stones. They then ran bodily in the direction of the Dady Sett Fire-temple, before reaching which they were split into parties and took to different roads. A large number escaped through Funnuswady. A party of about 200 were chased by Mr. Edginton and other police officers who rode in a fire-engine brake with drawn swords. About 150 ran into what appeared to be a narrow lane beyond the fire-temple, but which had no outlet. Here they were hemmed in and attacked by a body of Parsees. A number of them escaped by climbing over roofs and running through sweepers' gullies; but about 50 were arrested and removed to the Mazagon Police Office. The Parsees of the locality were loud in expressing their admiration of Mr. Edginton's conduct on this occasion."

While this riot was going on at Sonapore, numerous rumours of which reached the Parsee quarters in the Fort, the greatest excitement prevailed in Bazaar Gate Street, and a series of skirmishes took place in that locality, the result of which was that one or two Mahomedans were seriously injured, and one European constable named O'Connor slightly hurt. Some of the Parsees behaved with a cruelty which nothing can account for but the bitterness of their feelings arising from the outrages to which they had been subjected on Friday. An English gentleman, residing in Elphinstone Circle, saw a Post Office peon

attacked by a number of Parsees as the peon was walking quietly along Bazaar Gate Street, and he has declared that he never saw a more wicked and unprovoked assault in his life. This gentleman was in his bath, when he heard a great noise in the street, and, looking out of his window, he saw a number of Parsees beating the unfortunate Mussulman in the most shameful way. The peon managed to get clear away for a moment, but as he was running off a respectably dressed Parsee, who had been seized with the panic, rushed out of his house with a big club and struck the peon to the ground. The police, who had looked on placidly all the time, now came up and packed off to hospital the unfortunate victim of this outrage. Such an outrage as this called forth a warning from the *Bombay Gazette* that if the Parsees repeated such conduct European sympathy, which they entirely possessed in consequence of the Mahomedan riot on the 13th, would pass away from them, and they would thereby injure their cause. The fact is that the rumours from Sonapore of the proceedings there seem to have frenzied the Parsees in the Fort, and they were prepared to suspect and pounce upon any Mahomedan they caught sight of. Most of the Parsee houses in the Fort were shut up, and groups of Parsees armed with sticks and bludgeons rushed hither and thither through the public streets, swayed by the merest rumours that Mussulmans were in their vicinity. The whole town, except that part of it occupied exclusively by Europeans, may be said to have been thrown into turmoil during this fatal Sunday. Indignation on the following morning, at the inefficiency of the police, and the supineness of the Government in not at once putting the city under martial law, was expressed throughout Bombay in the most decided terms. It was no wonder, then, that the *Bombay Gazette* which appeared on Monday morning should contain the following editorial:—

A few more people were killed and wounded yesterday in Bombay, and there is no saying how formidable the list may become by the time the Moharrum is over. From the account that we publish in another column of the fatal riot at Sonapore it will be seen that, owing to the disgraceful neligence of the Government of Bombay, Mussulmans and Parsees are now left to fight out their quarrels with such weapons as they may happen to get hold of—and the Bombay club is by no means a weapon to be despised —and that the police only interfere when they think the combatants have had enough fighting for one day. The disputed question whether it was the Mussulmans or the Parsees who began the riot yesterday will no doubt be fully investigated at the inquest on the bodies of the men killed in the affray, and at the examination in the Police Office of the rioters who have been arrested. But it will be generally considered that the police put themselves entirely in the wrong in the first instance by allowing an organized body of Mahomedans, 400 strong, and many of them, it is said, armed with knives or hatchets as well as sticks, to march through the native town in funeral procession. There were only, we are told, two or three police sepoys with the self-styled mourners, among whom were a considerable number of Seedees, able-bodied, reckless adventurers from the coasts of the Persian Gulf or Red Sea who are always ready for any act of lawlessness, and whom intriguers make use of to carry out their designs. It is an unfortunate circumstance that the Mussulman burying ground at Sonapore is close to the Parsee quarter of the native town, and among the measures that ought to be taken for preventing a repetition of these riots we would recommend that a new place of sepulture for the Mahomedan community be provided elsewhere. But, things being as they are, what could Mr. Souter have been thinking of when he permitted such an assemblage to be held where it could hardly fail to provoke a collision between two races excited to a pitch of frenzy against one another by real or fancied wrongs? The fatal mistake of the police throughout this unlucky business has been to laugh at the terrors of

peaceful citizens and to leave things very much to chance. They ought to have had a force ready to maintain order on Friday, but the work of devastation went on for two hours before the rioters were interfered with. Mr. Edginton indeed says, in the information he laid before the Magistrate on Saturday, that "to the best of his remembrance" the police were on the spot where the riot was going on by half-past one; but to this curiously guarded statement must be opposed the unanimous evidence of the Parsees that they got no help till nearly three o'clock, evidence which is confirmed by the state of the houses and temples ransacked, for the complete destruction of every article of property even in the very garrets of houses four storeys high could not have been effected if the rioters had not had leisure to do their work systematically. Yesterday morning, again, the Parsees excused themselves for imitating the example of the Mahomedans, and aiding to inaugurate the rule of mob-law in Bombay, by alleging that the police cannot keep the peace. Mr. Souter, it will be observed, corroborates this assertion; for he says, in effect, what everybody knows to be true, that the native police are worthless without leaders against infuriated rioters, and that, as he has not a sufficient force of mounted European constables, he cannot do his duty satisfactorily. He blames the Bench of Justices for the inefficiency of the force he commands; but, as the Government of Bombay never paid the slightest heed to any recommendation of the Bench of Justices which did not fall in with its own views, the reproach addressed to the Bench is undeserved. Moreover, if Mr. Souter knew his force was too weak, why did he not call in the aid of the military before yesterday? Either he must have been ignorant of the excited state of public feeling in the town, or he must have greatly underrated its possible effects, since it is plain that he neglected to take the necessary precautions against the renewal of the riots.

We have spoken freely of what we consider Mr. Souter's failure to meet the emergency; but the remarkable inaction of the Government of Bombay is at least equally worthy of condemnation. It seems incredible that, after what occurred on Friday, no member of the Government, not even, as a Parsee bitterly remarked, one of the Under Secretaries, took the trouble to go and see with his own eyes the results of the riot, or to form an opinion of his own about the measures required to ensure the preservation of peace in this great city, in which a very slight disturbance, if it be not at once put down with a strong hand, may quickly gain dimensions making it a serious danger to the State. After the riot of yesterday morning, Sir Philip Wodehouse did ride through the principal streets of the native town; but nothing has yet been done to calm the public mind; and, in presence of what may become a great public calamity, there exists, we regret to find, a general feeling that no confidence can be placed in the judgment of the men who form the Government of Bombay.

There are three things which the Government ought to do immediately, in order to reassure well-disposed citizens and to terrify evil-doers. In the first place, a Proclamation should be issued, warning the people to remain in their houses instead of assembling in groups in the streets. Up to a late hour last night, all the main streets of the native town were swarming with people in a high state of excitement, and a single stone thrown might be the signal for another disturbance. Again, the Government should lose no time in announcing that the disgusting tom-foolery of the Mohurrum shall not be exhibited, this year at all events, in Bombay. Finally, the European troops should be brought down from Colaba, and encamped on the Esplanade, in the immediate vicinity of the native town. Unless the Brigadier has these troops close at hand, a fresh outbreak in the native town may assume a character which it is not pleasant to anticipate. No doubt the good, easy-going people at Parell will set this down as the language of panic; but, if there is a man in the Government with a head on the shoulders, he will see that, after Bombay has been given up as a prey to mob law for two or three days, the Government has but one duty, to restore order by any and every means while there is still a chance that respect for authority can be enforced. It is to the public a matter of indifference whether Parsee or Mussulman was originally to blame. There is not a pin to choose between the Parsee rough and the Mussulman rough, and both ought to be shot down without mercy if there is any more rioting, unless the Government is prepared to let the reign of anarchy be established permanently in Bombay.

Scarcely less pronounced upon the subject was the *Indian Statesman*, from the leader of which on the 16th February we make the following extracts :—

Any delusion that may have been still cherished regarding the efficiency of our city police, must have been entirely dispelled by the riot of Friday. The simple fact that a fanatical mob should have been allowed to run riot in the very heart of the town, threatening life and destroying property for two whole hours, before any check was offered to them, leaves no further room for confidence in either the Commissioner or the constabulary. But Mr. Souter will have more to explain than the utter failure of his force when its efficiency was put to the test. It would have been disgraceful enough had a riot, excited by any sudden and unforeseen occurrence, been allowed to prevail for two hours before the police came upon the scene ; but when due information had been given, and the police authorities implored to preserve the peace, the Commissioner's carelessness was in the highest degree culpable. Although the Commissioner had been given distinctly to understand the apprehensions under which the Parsee community was labouring, and must, or ought to, have known of himself the dangerous spirit that was being propagated among the Mahomedans, nothing was done to prevent the outbreak. One or two European constables in plain clothes and a few sepoys, also out of uniform, were posted in the vicinity of the mosque; and that was all. Surely an officer of Mr. Souter's experience must have known that the presence of these men out of uniform was worth nothing for the preservation of the peace. When the excited mob of Mahomedans poured forth from the mosque, and saw no sign of policemen, was it at all unlikely that they should conclude that the Commissioner of Police had obligingly left them a fair field? The most lenient view that we can take of the Commissioner's proceedings is, that he did not exercise sufficient precautions to prevent the riot on Friday, and that his subsequent arrangements have up to the present time been utterly inadequate to restore a sense of public security. Although we are given to understand that the services of the military are at Mr. Souter's disposal, no steps up to yesterday afternoon were taken to overawe the Mahomedan *canaille*; and the previous negligence of the police is greatly aggravated in the eyes of the inhabitants by the obstinacy with which the Commissioner refuses to recognize the inadequacy of his force for dealing with the emergency. Nor, we fear, can the Bombay Government be altogether exempted from the condemnation which must fall upon the police authorities. Up to yesterday evening, the condition of the native town was such as would clearly have justified, and even demanded, the removal of the responsibility for the preservation of order from the Commissioner of the Police to the Executive Government. We have heard it rumoured, but cannot bring ourselves to believe it true, that a deputation of Parsees, who waited on the Governor on Friday evening, received for reply that "the Government had every confidence in the Commissioner of Police." This was but cold comfort to men whom this "every confidence" had, but a few hours before, cost their property and almost their lives. The present condition of Bombay is not one that can be treated departmentally, but will demand the utmost energies of the Executive Government to ensure peace during the approaching Mohurrum. Even on ordinary occasions it has been found difficult to keep down rioting during this festival, and what are we to expect this year after the prelude to which we have been treated during the last three days. We hope the Government will not hesitate to firmly suppress the *taboot* processions, and all other out-of-door demonstrations that would be likely to bring about another collision. With regard to the conduct of the police, it is due to the public that a Commission of Enquiry should be issued as soon as peace is finally restored. In the meantime we look to Government and not to the Police for the preservation of peace; and for whatever further outrages may be perpetrated, His Excellency in Council will be held responsible by public opinion. The majesty of the law has already been set at too much defiance in the very head-quarters of Government, and unless Sir Philip Wodehouse is prepared to abdicate in favour of King Mob, he must stretch out a strong hand upon the turbulent masses.

The *Times of India* was not very definite in the expression of its opinions, but from its leader on the 16th February we may take the following extracts :—

Was not the omission to place an adequate police force in the neighbourhood of the Jumma Musjid from an early hour on Friday morning, an omission that requires explanation? Were all requisite steps taken beforehand to investigate the rumours of meditated disturbance, and were due precautions taken to check such if it arose? These queries we must supplement with another —if pacificatory assurances by *kazis* or well known Mussulmans were given to the Police

Commissioner, were measures taken, and by independent means, to test the value and bases of those assurances? It is very strange that if Mussulman shop-keepers could speak openly of the blow about to be struck, the head of our Police should not be cognizant or apprehensive of the coming peril. If apprehensive, his positions would have been taken up, as needful, his forces strengthened. And, having regard to the principle of the immense superiority of organised defence when used *in time*, and directed against the vanguard of a rabble, we affirm that the Bombay Police Force could have afforded twice as many men, mounted and foot, as would, if used *at first*, have sufficed to drive back or "run in" the *budmashes*, who, on Friday, held unchecked possession of two or three streets for about an hour. It is tolerably plain that had an effective parade of troops taken place on Saturday evening, there could scarcely have been that parade of Seedees and Arabs, 300 staves strong, in the funeral procession to Sonapore on Sunday forenoon, which resulted in such distressing consequences.

Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy and his wife and daughters passed through Sonapore on their way to Mazagon Castle a few minutes before the riot broke out. Had the Baronet been caught sight of by the excited Mussulmans, another calamity would probably have been suffered by the Parsee community. The Hon. Baronet represented the state of matters to Government, and in the afternoon received the following letter signed, not by Sir Philip Wodehouse, but by Mr. Lee-Warner:—

PARELL, SUNDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY.

MY DEAR SIR JAMSETJEE,—As I write, the military assistance for which you asked is in the town of Bombay, and the Government will be prepared to take such further action as may be necessary. H. E. told you last night, that from the latest accounts received he was of opinion that the Mussulmans were quieted by the arrest of the late rioters, and it is therefore his earnest hope that the leading gentlemen of the Parsee community will repress by every means in their power any sign of retaliation on the part of the Parsees, or any exhibition of vindictive feeling, which if it does not provoke a fresh breach of the peace, will keep old sores open. H. E. is exceedingly sorry to learn that despite the presence of a strong police force, some Parsees to-day threw stones at some Mussulmans during a funeral service, and brought on a fight which caused injury to several people. There has also been a smaller row in Fort Bora Bazaar Street, where one European inspector has been badly hit by a Parsee. Of course such things cannot be altogether avoided, but with the influence which you and the gentlemen who called last night possess over the Parsee community, H. E. must look to you, as he is sure he can with full confidence advise all Parsees to remain at home as much as possible until some greater degree of quiet is restored. —Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. LEE-WARNER,
Private Secretary.

It is strange to notice here that the cause of the disturbance at Sonapore is assumed against the Parsees by the Bombay Government, and in the next place that it speaks of the "presence of a strong police force," whereas the evidence given afterwards by Mr. Superintendent Mills in the Police Court showed that the police force was not a strong one—at all events, not strong, considering the task to be accomplished—namely, that of keeping the peace between an insolent Mahomedan mob and an insulted people, when the former were in the midst of the quarters occupied by the Parsees. Nothing but the presence of military in large numbers could be regarded as a "strong force" fit to hold such an inflammable multitude in check. But it was probably to justify the opinion expressed by Sir Philip Wodehouse on Saturday the 14th to the Parsee deputation that Mr. Lee-Warner, on behalf of His Excellency, put forward on the 15th, the suggestion that, if the Parsees had not attacked the Mahomedans on that day, the police force was quite strong enough to cope with the mob without the aid of the military.

## MONDAY, THE 16th FEBRUARY.

ON this day the sun again rose upon an excited city. As some of the Seedees and Mahomedans who died on Sunday were expected to be taken from the Jamsetjee Hospital and buried by their friends, the Parsees looked forward to another riot, and indeed the most exciting circumstance that occurred on this day was the burial of an old

Mussulman named Hajee Ahmed. We take the following account of this remarkable affair from the *Bombay Gazette*; while it is interesting in the details given of what actually took place, it is also highly expressive of the state into which Bombay had been plunged:—

Shortly after our visit to the Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Hospital on Sunday, Hajee Ahmed and two of the mangled unknown Seedees died. Hajee Ahmed is an old man who was found lying insensible on the road near Sonapore with his fractured jaw hanging down upon his chest. We thought when we saw him gasping, that the world would hear no more of Hajee Ahmed than that he was one of the victims of the Sonapore Riot, but he has been fated to have a wider fame after death than during life. The "unknown" Seedees died unknown, and having no friends in Bombay were quietly bestowed in the usual way of unknown corpses that make their exit from the Jejeebhoy Hospital, but to Hajee Ahmed was reserved the notoriety of having the most extraordinary funeral ever seen in Bombay. The poor little old Mussulman, whose age and feebleness make it probable that he met his death-wound not when he was an active rioter but when he was a real mourner who had been hustled into the midst of the melée, has had a greater procession at his funeral than the most famous man that ever died in this city. Hajee Ahmed when alive was nobody; dead, his name will become a household word in the Mussulman community. He was followed to his grave by hundreds of his community; by a Commissioner of Police and many Superintendents and Inspectors belonging to that body; by police on foot and on horseback; by a regiment of native soldiery. And after he was laid in the earth, the fact was marked by the presence in the principal streets of a Brigadier-General, several companies of European infantry, and a diminutive detachment of native cavalry. "Like Hajee Ahmed's funeral" may well become a synonym with Bombay Mussulmans for something very grand.

The men whom Mr. Souter employs to feel the native pulse reported to him on Monday morning that the Mussulman community—at least the Sooree portion of it—were very excited about Hajee's death, and proposed to follow his body to Sonapore graveyard in large numbers. They also said it was their belief that the excitement at the funeral would be so great that an attack upon the Parsees in revenge for the old man's murder was as likely an event as not. Mr. Souter at once asked the Brigadier-General for the assistance of the military, and before two o'clock the following programme of the precautionary measures proposed to be taken was issued:—

1. The 20th Regt. N. I. take the picquet at Pydhonee street from this evening.
2. The Marine Battalion to take the picquet at Dhobie Talao in like manner.
3. The 4th Rifles to take Garrison guards.
4. Each Commanding Officer to make his own arrangements for relief of their respective picquet.
5. An European officer to be with each picquet.
6. Commanding Officers to report that each officer in command of a picquet has read separate General Orders, Section Aid to the Civil Power.
7. Whenever any disturbance occurs, the officer commanding the picquet is to send an immediate report to the Officer Commanding the Regiment, who will at once send a reinforcement of equal strength from the Lines, and get the remainder of his regiment under arms.
8. Each Commanding Officer on learning that his picquet has called for assistance, will send a report at once to the Assistant Quarter Master General for the Brigadier General's information.
9. If picquets are called on for assistance, the detachment 2nd Queen's will be moved by rail from Colaba to Churney Road Station, and there await orders.
10. Special arrangements to be made for the train to be ready when required without incurring expense present.
11. If picquets are called out, the Commander-in-Chief's escort to be brought by Captain A. Spencer to wherever the Brigadier-General may be, and await orders.
12. Two light field guns with ammunition and drag ropes to be ready in the Arsenal to be manned by Royal Artillery Gunners from Colaba.
13. Colonel Bond, commanding Royal Artillery, to be warned to have these guns detachments in readiness to move to the Arsenal, on receipt of a telegram to that effect; also to have a man in waiting at the Light House Telegraph Office day and night till further orders.
14. In the absence of the Brigadier-General to-day at Parell, Colonel Thacker to command, and if called out, to telegraph to General Gall immediately to Parell.

The relatives of Hajee Ahmed had gathered in the vicinity of the Jamseljee Hospital at an early hour, and began to clamour for his body. But permission to remove it was denied until the result of Mr. Souter's negotiations for a military force were known. The multitude swayed about impatiently, and at half-past one the nearest relative of the Hajee went to Mazagon Police Office and asked Mr. Edginton to grant his per-

mission to remove the body. The Soonee, however, had just to wait until the news arrived that the military precautions were complete, which it did, as we have said, about two o'clock. The body was soon taken out of the ward, and mounted on a bier borne by a number of willing shoulders. At sight of this the assemblage raised a mournful sound, and the bier with its simple covering of a white spotted red piece of cotton became an object of the most reverend attention. At a signal the funeral procession fell in, but very quietly there moved along with it a number of persons who were not exactly mourners. In front marched a number of sepoys and one or two Police Superintendents, while closing in the rear came a small body of police and then a small body of the 21st Regiment; and at a short distance further off came a couple of companies of the 21st Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod and Captain Becke. The mourners round the bier leaped and cried and beat their heads: the police marched quietly on; the military's fixed bayonets glittered as they moved; a Police Superintendent on horseback darted suddenly to this side or to that, at each rush making a crowd of loungers fly:—and so the procession moved up Bhendy Bazaar. It turned down towards Null Bazaar, where the number of mourners, or pretended mourners, became considerably larger, and as this place is the notorious haunt of Bombay ruffiandom, the character of the procession as to respectability was not increased by the addition. The Police Superintendents galloped here and there, but their enthusiasm could not alter the fact of thousands of people clustering on the footpaths or craning their necks over the windows of the houses. A short halt was made near the Null Bazaar, during which the military split into lines and guarded the road. When the procession moved on again, it turned down a narrow lane called Allee Oomer Street, the quaint architecture of the wooden and green, blue, yellow, and even red houses in which shared attention with the motley character of its residents. In this street Hajee Ahmed's house was situated, and collected near it there must have been five hundred people. The cries of the mourners echoed through the street and continued till the bier disappeared beneath the deceased's doorway, in front of which a rough mat was hung. Then somebody among the Mahomedans present spread matting upon the road, upon which a number of Mussulmans squatted at once and lighted small cigarettes and began to chat. While the body was within the house, undergoing some rites at the hands of Hajee Ahmed's family, the little street wore an alarming appearance, the military and police being crushed into it, while Superintendents Mills, Crummy, and Longden rode up and down, and Inspectors Price and Chislett guarded the exit and entrance, which bristled with Mussulmans all vociferating that being relations of Hajee Ahmed they ought to be permitted to sit near his house. Mr. Souter, who frequently appeared among the processionists, conferred with several of the more influential of the Mussulmans who crowded near the portals of the house of mourning. One old man he called towards him, who went not without reluctance down the bayonet-bristling lane. Him the Commissioner of Police exhorted to do what he could to preserve the peace, and the old man promised. When the groups of skull-capped gentry had exhausted their speculations upon the cause of the presence of the military, and affrighted fowls had repeatedly lost themselves among the legs of the native soldiers, much to the discomfiture of the dignity both of fowl and soldier; when women had hurt their eyes by straining between deep-slit venetian blinds to catch a glimpse of what was going on, the matting across the doorway moved aside, the bier reappeared covered with the same old piece of cotton, and everybody who had been squatting on the road rose to his feet, and soon the procession was formed again. It would be difficult to describe the appearance of the funeral party and their military accompaniments as they moved down between the narrow defiles of streets, gazed upon by thousands of people from roofs, verandahs, and windows. The combined murmur of the huge surging crowd; the shouts of the mourners; the yells of sowars as they wheeled about and drove back with their batons too curious half-dressed people who were crowding in upon the bier; the steady tramp of the military—all made up an effect beyond description. At Bapoo Khote Street a crowd was waiting which must have numbered many thousands, but it was prevented from joining the mourners by the European Superintendents riding in among the people and driving them back. In Bhowady Street, where the narrowness of the road extenuated the procession considerably, the windows in the high houses were filled with Hindoo men and women spectators. Frequent halts had to be made, during which the Commissioner of Police rode among the mourners and warned them against breaking the peace. At the end of this road, where Bholeshwur Temple, half-hid-

den by cocoanut trees, rises on an eminence, which was on this occasion crowded by Hindoos even down to the verge of the shimmering tank, the procession became slightly unsteady, and a halt had to be made for a short time; but in a few minutes the mourners had again room to leap about and scream and beat their heads and breasts, and the procession moved onwards past the Roman Catholic chapel, and then into the Agiary Lane—the abode of Parsees, and therefore looked upon with some anxiety by the authorities. But the majority of the windows were closed, and nothing except one incident interrupted the smooth progress of the procession. Some Parsees dwelling at the top of one of the highest of the buildings had not thought fit to lock themselves up, but rather it pleased them to look down upon the funeral party. They were caught sight of, and the gesture of one of them was mistaken by some of the Mussulmans, and the cry spread through the ranks of the mourners that a stone had been thrown at the body and that one of the Parsees had spat down upon it. Instantly the crowd stopped, and the deep murmur which had been sustained all through the march from the Jamsetjee Hospital changed into a roar of rage and defiance. Some of the more excited men in the procession leaped into the air and shook their fists and screamed; others, for want of bludgeons, waved knotted handkerchiefs above their heads. The military, however, pressed the crowd from behind; the Commissioner of Police rode among them and urged them to be quiet; and once more the procession moved on through the dreaded Agiary Lane. In front of the Dady Sett Fire Temple, round which a good deal of Sunday's rioting raged, a small company of soldiers and police was stationed, but the Mussulmans showed no disposition whatever to offer violence to the edifice and went on with their noisy chant of grief round Hajee's body. At the entrance to the Sonapore gully, which was the scene of another of Sunday's free fights, a number of police and military were drawn up. A temporary halt was made, during which the Commissioner of Police and Superintendent Mills rode down the narrow stinking place to see whether the Parsee residents had closed their houses. Not a single window was found open, and the usually teeming lane was as quiet as the grave. The procession turned down the lane, some of the mourners showing their excitement by extra furious dancing and singing. Near the gate of the Mussulman burying ground a Parsee insisted upon looking through the iron gratings which he had placed in front of his door. A European constable ran up to Mr. Souter and told him of the circumstance, and the latter at once rode down to the place and ordered the Parsee to close his door. The Parsee was inclined to be argumentative, but a few sold iers appeared on the scene and stopped the altercation, the Parsee closing the door abruptly. The graveyard has a small gateway, situated in a dilapidated alley, and for five minutes the members of the procession streamed through it. Near the gate a little mosque stands, and strikes the stranger as being more useful than ornamental, its masonry being alternated with indifferent specimens of thatching. Here some priests received the body, and a glimpse of the red bier could be caught sight of as it appeared across some archways on its way to the inner recesses of the edifice. The graveyard round the mosque surged with excited people, but speedily the murmur of the crowd was silenced, giving place to a prayer chanted over the body by the Mahomedan priests. While further ceremonies were being performed inside the mosque, the majority of the crowd dispersed across the graveyard, and formed parts of groups which stared through the gateway at the military, whose red coats and bayonets ornamented the sides of the lane as far as the eye reached; or squatted on the earth, and lit their *bedees*, and joked and laughed as though the occasion was rather a jolly one than otherwise. This latter fact indicated, in our opinion, that a huge proportion of the so-called mourners had honoured the procession with their presence simply because some fun was to be expected. The burying ground had been reached about four o'clock; and the body had been within the mosque for half an hour or so, when it reappeared in the archways, and a signal from a priest set the people down upon their knees, where they genuflected for a short time in the direction of the declining sun, after which the bier was picked up and taken to the place of burial, followed by a lamenting crowd. While the members of the procession were absent, a commotion occurred in one of the lanes adjoining the graveyard, but this was from no more alarming cause than the arrival of two companies of the 2nd Queen's, who had been conveyed to Churney Road Station by train from Colaba. The men were "as fresh as larks," and their appearance must have had a considerable moral effect upon the Mussulmans within the churchyard, who came to stare at them. They were accompanied by Brigadier-

General Gell and Major Sexton, while Major Gibbs was the officer in charge of the detachment. These European troops were marched through the Parsee quarters and down to the Bhendy Bazaar Road. They had scarcely disappeared round the Sonapore Lane, when the trampling of horses was heard, and twenty-five men of the 1st Cavalry (His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's escort) rode on to the ground, Captain Karslake following. They proceeded at once through the parts of the town where the peace was menaced, and *their* moral effect must have been almost as great as that of the European troops. Soon after this, the Mussulmans issued from the graveyard. They were addressed by Mr. Souter, who pointed out that as the European troops were now out, any demonstration of an unpeaceful nature would be exceedingly dangerous. They were also addressed by a little man with a turban and a yellow handkerchief round his waist, after which the procession moved on towards the town again. They were perfectly peaceful. True, not a Parsee was to be seen on their whole line of march; but that they were not very much disposed for rough play was sufficiently shown by their quiet demeanour. They quickly reached the Bhendy Bazaar, and thence dispersed, every man to his own way. When the crowd had passed through the Agiary lane and Sonapore lane, the hidden Parsees threw open their doors and windows, and the whole place soon looked as lively as though Hajee Ahmed's much-dreaded funeral had never taken place. The Parsee community are to be complimented for their forbearance on this occasion, and the Mussulmans for their discretion in not risking a collision with Her Majesty's troops. We cannot conclude this notice without mentioning that Mr. Souter was boundless in his efforts to restrain Hajee Ahmed's mourners from bringing a calamity upon themselves. They were in a terrible state of excitement, each individual appearing to be galvanized, and nothing but considerable tact and the timely display of those excellent persuaders, the Military, could have prevented the seething mass from being fatally foolish.

Rumours of disturbances in various parts of the town were rife, but few of them were well-founded. The most extraordinary one was that the Mahomedan butchers had poisoned the mutton in the Crawford Markets, and in consequence of this large quantities of meat which had been bought in the bazaar were thrown away by Parsees, while some others sent portions of meat for analysis to graduates of the Grant Medical College! A large number of Parsee gentlemen of property, thoroughly believing that the reign of anarchy had been completely established in Bombay, sent their valuables to Banks; some engaged sleeping quarters in ships in the harbours; others engaged Purdasees and men from the Sailors' Home to defend their shops or private dwellings. In the course of a walk through Kalbadavie, many Europeans were to be seen seated in front of Parsee establishments playing with sticks among their fingers very defiantly, as if nothing would please them better than a little excitement with Mahomedans. The Parsee houses situated in the Mahomedan quarter remained shut up, and the inmates found it a matter of great difficulty to communicate with their friends. For instance, Eduljee Pestonjee, a Government servant, whose mother and two children shut themselves up on Friday in a solitary Parsee house in Chimboor Gully, happened to be in the Fort on business when he heard of the helpless condition of his relatives, but he could do nothing on that day. On Saturday he applied for assistance to the Senior Magistrate, who, after hearing his statement, sympathised with him, but declined to interfere. Eduljee then sought the assistance of the police inspector at the Moombadavie chowkey, and was told that there was no sepoy to be spared specially for him. The inspector was, however, prevailed upon by the man's supplication to send out a sepoy with him; but on seeing the threatening aspect of affairs at the Paedhonee Tank, the sepoy, No. 1282, bolted, leaving Eduljee to go to his relatives as best he could. The Parsee thereupon returned to the Fort, and appealed to Mr. Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, who kindly undertook to communicate with the Deputy Commissioner of Police with a view to release the poor man's relatives from their captivity. In the forenoon Eduljee Pestonjee Bottlewalla who had gone from the Fort, whither he had removed his family, to

Bhendy Bazaar in order to get clean clothes from his family, was set upon in Null Bazaar Road, and severely maltreated by a Mussulman mob with sticks and stones. In the afternoon about twenty-five Seedees came out at the Bazaar Gate Street, and, while attempting to enter the shop of a Parsee broadcloth merchant, were stopped by the police, and sticks and other articles were found in their possession. Other incidents of attacks on individuals were stated to have occurred, and whether they were true or not, they all tended to sustain excitement. Two guns were taken out of the Arsenal in the evening, and fired to clean them, and the cry went at once through the Parsee quarters in the Fort that the Artillery had been called out and were going to fire down the principal streets. Colaba shared the day's alarms in consequence of a warning order issued by Brigadier-General Gell. Major Gibbs, commanding 2nd Queen's, was ordered to be in readiness with 150 men; and Colonel Bond, commanding R. A., to keep up telegraphic communications with the General Commanding between the Fort and the Colaba Light House. This eventuated at half-past 3 P.M. in a call for the immediate departure, by train, of the infantry, to be followed by a detachment R. A. to man two light field pieces at the Arsenal. This was well done by Captain Wright, who took half of his Battery down with him, and made every arrangement for them to camp the night out; fortunately, however, the Europeans were not required to remain out, but returned to their barracks. Rumours of disturbances came in from Baudora and Mahim, and even from Broach, but information subsequently received showed that peace had reigned in all these places. The majority of the Parsees in Bombay were impressed with the idea that the police were totally unable to protect them, and when the following letter, addressed by Mr. Byramjee Jeejeebhoy to Mr. Souter on the day after the first riot took place, was published, indignation ran high that the police had so far neglected Mr. Byramjee's warning as to permit the disturbances which disfigured Sunday the 15th:—

To F. H. Souter, Esq., C.S.I., Commissioner of Police.

Sir,—I beg to call your attention to the state of the city, especially in the neighbourhood of Khetwady Dhanji Dungaria Street, Abdool Rehman and other streets adjacent. In these quarters mobs of Mahomedans have on two or three occasions this morning collected in a threatening manner to the alarm and terror of the inhabitants, and these mobs have not been attacked and dispersed by the police, but have been simply turned back only to collect again at some other point that seems more defenceless.

On enquiring at Khetwady main road, I was informed by the European constables there that they were quite exhausted, having been on duty since 1 o'clock yesterday; that they had no proper communication with the different sections of police, and consequently were unable to assemble in sufficient strength to attack and disperse the rioters. Under these circumstances, I beg, on behalf of my countrymen of the neighbourhood in question, that you will obtain further assistance, as it is evident that the Police Force in its present condition is unable to cope with the rioters, who, if by any chance they obtain an opportunity, will renew the dreadful outrages of yesterday. I have been requested by several deputations of my countrymen to make this communication to you.

I submit to you that what has occurred to-day tends to show that all necessary precautions have not been taken, and I take the liberty of suggesting that the stationing of the military on these districts will alone scare the evil-doers and restore confidence to the Parsee community. It is much safer to err on the side of peace and order, and to put beyond all possible doubt the chance of the repetition of what occurred yesterday.—I have, &c.,

Byramjee Jeejeebhoy.

Bombay, 14th February 1874.

However, the military precautions which Government had at last taken gradually became known throughout the town on Monday evening, and public confidence was to a certain extent restored. Government House Ball took place at night at Parell quite as serenely as though Bombay had never known agitation. Nero fiddled while Rome

burned, and what can be said against the Bombay Government officials dancing when the city was so dangerously full of excitement that the presence of troops was necessary in the streets? We have heard it remarked that several Parsees believed Sir Philip Wodehouse had ordered out the military chiefly with the object of preventing himself from being annoyed during the ball with the news of another insurrection in the city. If this were true, it is a pity that Government House Ball was not fixed to take place on the evening of Saturday the 14th. Referring to the tardy action of Government, the *Bombay Gazette* published the following leading article on Tuesday the 17th :—

Another day has passed, and the Government has at last been stirred to action. His Excellency the Governor's charitable heart has perhaps been so taken up with the woes of the starving people of Bengal, and what he is pleased to call his mind has been so intent on the composition of the speech he must deliver to-day to the graduates of the University of Bombay, that the preservation of the peace of this city had become meanwhile for him quite a secondary consideration. We do not mean to say that the Governor has not tired to do his duty to the best of his ability. But then his ability seems to go such a very little way. We do not know much about him—nobody does, apparently, but his Private Secretary—but he is evidently a perfect slave to official prejudice. He dislikes the natives, and he absolutely refuses to recognize the existence of non-official Europeans; so that Bombay society consists for him only of the members of Council, the Judges and other high functionaries, and his own suite. The character of the Government with which we are now blessed was amusingly displayed at the Famine Relief Meeting on Saturday, when not a single member of the English mercantile community of Bombay was asked to take a part in the proceedings, and when a reverend doctor whose name has been held in honour by the people of Western India for the last forty years was allowed to retire humbly into the second row of seats in order to make way at the table for a native member of Council, who in his turn hastily gave up his seat on the entrance of the real live member of the Civil Service who came to propose that His Excellency should take the chair. A Government which holds nothing sacred but official titles can understand little or nothing of Bombay; and the men who compose the present Government see nothing, hear nothing, and apparently wish to learn nothing, except what their own officers choose to tell them. If such a good fellow and popular member of official society as the Chief Commissioner of Police has a prejudice against the Parsees, the Government also has a prejudice against the Parsees. The Governor and the rest of the official coterie can see only with Mr. Souter's eyes; and, though it has been proved within the last few days that the town may be seething with sedition and Mr. Souter know nothing at all about the matter, we can well believe that the officials of Government House have been smiling amiably on one another since the riots began, exchanging mutual compliments on their own presence of mind, and congratulating one another that they had a Police Commissioner in whom full confidence could be placed by all sensible men, no matter what the scurrilous newspapers might choose to say.

Still—let us be just even to an incapable Government—the news that eight men have already died of wounds received in street riots, and that through the whole of Sunday anarchy prevailed in the native town, seems at last to have moved Sir Philip Wodehouse to do something. And, strange to say, the Governor has adopted some of the very measures recommended by the press. We said yesterday that peace could not be restored without the intervention of European troops. In the course of the day the Government called out the European troops, who escorted an imposing funeral procession of Mahommedans to the burial-ground which was the scene of Sunday's fatal riot; and, as might have been anticipated, everything passed off peaceably, no attempt at a disturbance being made by either Mussulmans or Parsees. Again, we suggested that the usual licence of the Moburrum should be restrained this year; and yesterday a meeting of the Executive Council was held to consider whether the public exhibition of the taboots ought not to be prohibited. We asked besides that the Government should reveal itself to the people, by issuing a procla-

mation against the assembling of armed groups of excited men in the streets. A few plain words would have sufficed to reassure all good citizens; but these the Government still refuses to utter. We have, however, instead of the Proclamation, Mr. Lee-Warner's letter to Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, in which the Parsees are treated to much good advice, and, at the same time, are informed that the Government holds them wholly responsible for the riot of Sunday. It is evident from the tone of the letter that the Government has not taken the slightest trouble to make any independent inquiries in order to satisfy itself as to the justice or injustice of this grave charge. Mr. Lee-Warner's letter is simply a *précis* of Mr. Souter's report; and we need hardly say that the accuracy of that report is strenuously contested by the Parsees. There is, too, a sort of sneer in the sentence with which the letter opens, Sir Jamsetjee being told that, as the military have now been called out, it is to be hoped he and his friends will calm their foolish fears and go to bed. Not a word of regret do we read for the spoliation of Parsee property, not a word of sympathy with men who have been exposed to the most degrading outrages by their own too great faith in the protecting power of the British Government. This hard, bitter, ill-judged letter confirms all we have said about the absolute incapacity of the Government of Bombay to look beyond the limits of its own petty official circle; and it cannot be regarded as anything better than a deliberate insult offered to the whole Parsee community. Fancy a Government telling people who have been entreating it for three days to use the force at its command in order to protect their lives and property—"Oh! dear, pray take your troops and let us have some peace; for by your continual coming you weary us."

The Government, however, has been convinced of the necessity of maintaining order in Bombay; and we are thankful that we have done something to rouse it to a sense of its duty. A sort of Council of War was held yesterday at Parell, and not only was a company of the 2nd Queen's ordered to march into the native town, but a battery of Artillery and the finest regiment of cavalry in the service, the Poona Horse, are now on their way from Poona. It may be assumed, therefore, that all fresh attempts at rioting will be summarily put down. This is all we have asked at the hands of the Government. We have no preference for one caste or race over another; and, at the risk of incurring much obloquy, we strive, in an imperfect fashion, to hold the balance even between Europeans and natives, officials and non-officials. Criticism is the province of the newspaper press, and a journalist who tries to do his duty must make up his mind to be held up to execration by each section of the community in turn. At the present moment, the *Bombay Gazette* is denounced, by men who were till the other day its staunchest supporters, as (of course) the unscrupulous and interested advocate of the Parsees. Disinterestedness is assumed to be one of the purely official virtues—and it ought to be, for it must be an easy thing to be disinterested on Rs. 5,000 a month. But, be this as it may, we intend to take our own course, according to the judgment we form of the events of our time; and, with regard to these riots, it is our opinion that the Parsees have not had fair play. No one can condemn more severely than we do the cowardly acts of retaliation by which some members of the Parsee community have injured their cause; but the Government leaves completely out of sight the provocation which drove these men to madness. We believe that up to this moment no one connected with the Government has paid a visit to the houses wrecked and the temples polluted by the Mussulman mob last Friday; and the puerile explanation offered by the Mussulmans of the origin of the riot—in a letter which we publish this morning—only shows, if it is accurate, the utter want of sense of the Police, who, instead of having a strong force headed by Europeans in reserve when a riot was expected, deputed a Parsee constable to keep guard over a Mahomedan mosque! The Government of Bombay has done now, at the instance of the newspaper press, what it ought to have done four days ago; and its vigorous action of to-day cannot atone for its past neglect. Not only have many lives been lost and much property destroyed, but business has been brought entirely to a stand-still for several days in the native town. So great, indeed, has been the panic that very many Parsee families

have fled for safety from the native town into the Fort, while others have remained shut up in their houses in the native town because they were afraid to venture out. For the last two or three days we have had a good deal of difficulty in bringing out the *Gazette*, because most of the Parsee compositors dared not attempt to come to the office, and many solicitors and mercantile firms in the Fort have experienced similar inconvenience in the conduct of their business. So complete, in fact, has been their distrust of the Government that the Parsees have taken to buying revolvers to protect themselves. Although, therefore, the Government is bent on maintaining order now at any cost, it cannot undo the results of the reign of anarchy to which Bombay has been subjected. To say nothing of direct injuries to person and property, these riots have sown the seeds of dissension which will do mischief in Bombay long after the trivial "society" to whose prejudices the Governor and his colleagues and Mr. Souter pin their faith has vanished out of existence: and Sir Philip Wodehouse underrates very greatly the influence of public opinion in our time if he imagines that he, as Governor of Bombay, will not be called to its bar to answer for the apathy which has plunged one of the chief cities of the British Empire into a state of confusion unparalleled in the recollection of the oldest resident of Bombay.

The *Indian Statesman* of the same date published the following editorial remarks upon the same subject:—

A calm retrospect of events since Friday compels us to admit that the police is not the only body that has proved unequal to the emergency. The supineness of Government, whether arising from an inability to estimate the critical condition of the city, or from timidity to put down force by force, is even more unexcusable than the collapse of the police. The reputation of the Bombay Government has not for many a day stood at a very high point, but we never expected to see it so discredited as it has been by its inertness during the last few days. Of course an account will have to be rendered to Parliament, and that at no very distant date, and we hope that Government will then be able to offer a satisfactory explanation of its position. This explanation would, however, have been all the more easily made, had the Government taken the public into its confidence at the time of the crisis, and endeavoured to allay the popular fears by re-assuring promises of future precautions. Up to yesterday Government had given no intimation of having taken any interest in the riots, nor any public assurance of its disposition to put down disturbance. Had the riot of Friday occurred in any other provincial capital, the Government would have issued a proclamation for the preservation of peace, and have taken upon itself the responsibility for enforcing order within four and twenty hours. By its reticence and apathy, the Government of Bombay has not only needlessly intensified and prolonged the panic, but, as it seems to us, has been the indirect cause of the fatal riot of Sunday. The events of Friday and Saturday clearly showed that the police were inadequate to cope with the excited feelings of the populace. As soon as this was manifest, the direct responsibility of Government began; and the fact that it did not choose to recognize its duty, will by no means excuse it in the eyes of the public. We repeat that had Government placed the town under martial law on Saturday night, there would have been no riot on Sunday, and none of the fatal outrages caused by it. Sir Philip Wodehouse did not seem to consider the situation grave enough to require the supersession of municipal law! We do not know by what standards His Excellency is wont to measure rioting and murder, but in our judgment it would have been justifiable to have placed the city under the care of the military authorities, if only a single life had been to be saved by the precaution. From whatever direction we view it, the responsibility for these riots seems to be distinctly divisiable between the Police and the Government. The police will have to explain how it came about that the riot took them unawares; how the warnings and information that had been laid before the Commissioner had been neglected; how they were so strangely ignorant of public feeling; how they were so long in mustering upon the spot after the riot; and why they did not frankly confess their impotence to preserve the peace as soon as this fact became apparent to the authorities. Subsidiary to this, a personal explanation will be required from the Commissioner regarding his own conduct in the disturbances, and especially of the hostile position which he has allowed himself to take up towards the Parsees. We shall also have to learn whether a public servant who has permitted himself to use such ill-advised and prejudiced language as that imputed to Mr.

Souter by the Editor of the *Bombay Gazette*, can and be allowed to hold office under Government. To resolve these points, we should think, will demand a Commission of Enquiry: and we hardly think the Government of Bombay will dare to negative this request. With regard to its own conduct, the Government will have to justify its refusal to recognize the inefficiency of the police, to supersede the Municipal by the Military authorities, and to place the town under martial law when it had become clearly evident that the civil power could not enforce the observance of order. We hardly think that Parliament will require moving in the matter, but should it be necessary, we hope the citizens of Bombay will not spare any pains to have proper representations of the case laid before the House of Commons.

Still further to illustrate the state of public feeling, we publish the following letters which were addressed to the Editor of the *Bombay Gazette*:—

Sir,—It was refreshing to read your leader this morning on the Mahomedan riot. One gets so accustomed to find in Bombay honest indignation, though not without expression in some private circles, frittered away in courtly language when dealt with by the press, that a little plain writing acts as a tonic in the relaxing atmosphere of Bombay society. Every order-loving citizen cannot but agree with you as to the heedlessness displayed by Mr. Souter, in not taking precautions against an outburst of which he had fair warning. Perhaps the Byculla Ball may have had something to do with it. Certainly no one looking on that fair scene could have imagined that in a few hours and within a few hundred yards a large section of the inhabitants of this city would have their lives and property left to the mercy of a mob of fanatics, whose thirst for blood and plunder had been whetted by unwise concessions made to them. It may well therefore be, that Mr. Souter's vigilance had been lulled by the peaceful and gay scene he had just witnessed, and every excuse should be made for him under those circumstances. But I think there is a more serious complaint against Mr. Souter. How came it that Mr. Souter took upon himself, at the instance of a deputation of Mahomedans, to send for the Parsee author of the wretched little book which has caused this commotion, and use his official authority to suppress it? At first sight it may appear that this was a fair act of conciliation that deserves praise rather than blame, but a little reflection would have convinced Mr. Souter that he was doing the very thing he is bound above all others to abstain from, that is bringing the law into contempt. Either the publication of the book was lawful or unlawful. If lawful, the Mahomedans had no right to ask for, nor Mr. Souter to concede to them, the exercise of an irregular and unlawful authority to suppress it. If unlawful, the courts of law were open to their complaint, and Mr. Souter should have told them so, and that any attempt at force would be sternly repressed. But never was there a more unfortunate and unwise course than that adopted by him. There cannot be a doubt that there was nothing illegal in the publication. Mr. Cumroodin Tyabjee told the meeting which he addressed, that any application to the Courts would be uncertain. There was no uncertainty about the matter at all; any court of law in India would have very speedily dismissed the complaint. But Mr. Souter, with that love of meddlesome interference characteristic of the modern Indian official, brings his irregular authority to bear, and leads these turbulent Mahomedans to believe that there was some foundation for their murmurs and that the justice of them was recognized by the authority most prominent in Bombay, namely, the police. Was anything more likely to make these insolent and turbulent people more insolent and more turbulent? The next thing, I suppose, Mr. Souter will be asked to do by the Mahomedans of Bombay, is to suppress the sale of Gibbon's Decline and Fall, because in the notes on the chapters on the rise of the Mahomedan religion some very unclean incidents in the life of Mahomed are related. Mr. Souter may depend upon it that these things are a little beyond him, and what are, and what are not fit subjects for publication, are not to be compassed by the intelligence of a police officer. Wiser heads than his, guided by certain rules, have to settle that question. Let him be assured that, when he steps beyond his proper functions as laid down by law, it will be a mere accident that will prevent unfortunate results. Whatever may be thought of the conduct of the Parsees in the Towers of Silence case, it is generally thought that there was a lamentable want of discretion displayed by Mr. Souter. Let us hope that the Government will be just, and institute a strict enquiry into his conduct in this matter. The Bombay public has a right, when it pays so highly for the services of a Commissioner of Police, to have an officer cap-

ble of exercising some discretion and fore-thought when difficulties arise or danger threatens.

LEX.

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II.

SIR,—Every Parsee ought to feel grateful to you for the truly manly leader in your issue of this morning, and as a Parsee it rends my heart to see, that whilst Englishmen and others not belonging to our sect really feel the most unwarrantable and most unprovoked and barbarous onslaught committed yesterday afternoon on our lives, property, and religion by a lot of ruffianly Mussulmans, the heads of our community are not alive to the painful reality of our situation in any such or similar juncture. If they were, they had plenty of opportunities to show that they were not mere idle lookers-on. Mr. Souter has convinced every unbiassed mind since yesterday, that as Commissioner of Police he is utterly unfit. About a week ago he knew quite well that the Mahomedans were thinking very seriously of committing mischief and every Englishman in India, even one who has just arrived from England, knows well their diabolical tendencies. In fact, a deputation of the leading Mahomedans, headed by the sweet-spoken Cazee, waited upon Mr. Souter with their shabby grievance, which was no grievance at all, and instead of warning them and telling them in a manly and peremptory manner that India was a free country governed by Englishmen, and that if they had a grievance they had their remedy at law, and that the least sign of a riot would be dealt with in a summary manner, he just sent for the Parsee translator of Washington Irving's "Lives of the Prophets" and ordered him to destroy his book, simply because it contained one or two lines about the prophet of the Mahomedans, which according to the construction the Mahomedans put upon the meaning of one or two words offended their religious feelings. Here, sir, was the whole game lost; the Mahomedans were quick enough to notice that the police could not make a stand against them, and, whilst externally professing peace were hatching seeds of discord amongst themselves. A deputation of the Parsees only two days ago waited upon Mr. Souter, and either he or Mr. Edginton assured them that they had no reason to be alarmed, and that the Parsees now-a-days were becoming prone to exaggerate matters. To exaggerate matters, sir, and what has been the result? A most ruffianly and unusually large concourse of Mahomedans were allowed to assemble in the mosque yesterday forenoon without proper precautions being taken, and lo! at about 1 o'clock p.m., when the Parsees were quite unprepared, and had gone to their work, leaving at home their wives and children without any means of defence, these wretched, dastardly, brutal rascals began their fearful atrocities. These atrocities continued for two hours, and it was nearly three o'clock when the police came to the rescue. Mr. Souter might give some hodge-podge explanation, but it is due to the Parsees who have suffered so much at his hands that he should be at once asked to resign. Perhaps the Commissioner of Police depended upon his native subordinates, who might have misinformed him that all would go well; but he ought to be aware by this time, that a good part of his native subordinates, including that so much spoken of Akbar Ali, are Mahomedans, and therefore not to be trusted where their own religion was concerned. If the Parsees have any stuff in them, they ought at once to hold a public meeting and memorialize to His Excellency the Governor to issue orders to stop the taboot procession altogether from this year. The Mahomedans have still a very poor opinion about the strength of British rule in India, and if instances like what occurred yesterday are allowed to pass without the most exemplary punishment, it requires no great foresight to predict a second mutiny, if only on a small scale.

CORIOLANUS.

14th February.

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III.

SIR,—The Parsee community owes you the grateful appreciation due to a generous foe for the bold and outspoken language in which you have not hesitated to characterize the utter incapacity and culpable negligence betrayed by the police with regard to yesterday's riots. But if explanation is requisite from the head of the police for weakly giving in to the preposterous demand of the cunning Moulvie, for the suppression of a book in which not one out of a thousand of the rioters could have possibly come across those random remarks about their precious prophet, which have been tried to be made so much of, unless designing persons chose to exert themselves for that purpose; if explanation is requisite for the shameful inaction into which he allowed himself to be deceived by hollow assurances; if explanation is needed for the want of readiness exhibited by the police, in not coming up on the scene of the riots hours after the most transparent indications of what was going to happen, and even after the riots had actually commenced—shall we still await explanation before denouncing in merited terms their disgrace-

ful failure of to-day in dealing with the dastardly ruffians, whose courage is only in numbers, and then only attacking old men, women, and children taken unawares and found scattered only here and there amongst the most densely crowded Mussulman quarters? On returning last nigh from Surat, I was loathe to believe the accounts that were brong ht me of the riots, and debited a good deal to the score of frightened exaggeration. At any rate I gave full credence to the assurances contained in the reports of your contemporaries that the police were now on the alert and had been successful in restoring tranquillity. Desirous of ascertaining, however, with my own eyes the true state of matters, and finding all sorts of rumours rife in the town about fresh disturbances, I drove out in a buggy with a couple of friends about half-past four in the afternoon. Passing through Khetwady, we found considerable agitation among the Parsees there, and, on enquiring, learnt that from five to six hundred rioters had rushed in there five or six times, with the view of sacking a fire-temple (agiary) there, and that, though they had been repulsed till then, fresh attacks were expected. Somewhat incredulous, we drove on towards Null Bazaar, where our doubts were but too quickly dissipated. We had not advanced about twenty yards, before our buggy was surrounded by the rioters looting and yelling at us, as if the very sight of a Parsee was a sort of red flag to them, and we were assailed with a perfect storm of missiles, amongst which stones and broken bricks were the most conspicuous. Trying to push on as if unmindful of this somewhat warm reception, we had not proceeded a few yards more, before the greeting became so hot that we were compelled to bring out a gun and two revolvers which we had taken care to provide ourselves with before starting. The effect was electric; like the veriest dastards that they really were, the very sight of the fire-arms sent them flying in all directions, clearly proving to us that only a bold front and a firm hand were required to quell this beggarly rabble and scum of the Mahomedan population. But, as we could not always stay there presenting arms, we moved on, and at us the fellows were again, sometimes varying the hooting with hisses and substituting softer rubbish for bricks and bats. A sowar and a few policemen then rushed up to the spot, to whom one of my friends with considerable daring got down to point out some of the rioters, but with no better success than eliciting almost ludicrous expressions of helplessness. At length a European constable rode up and plainly declared to us that the police were utterly unable to protect us. As it was impossible to return the same way, we had to push on for Bhendy Bazaar, which was like falling from the pot into the frying pan. The whole place literally swarmed with these riotous beggars, and as we passed the Musjid there at a slow pace—for we were unable to move faster—the scoundrels were perfectly furious at us. I wonder what the Governor thought of it all, as he had passed along the same road only half-an-hour before us. I daresay that as none but Parsees are molested, His Excellency had some suspicion in his mind whether it was not some popular demonstration in his favour, and whether the whole Mussulman population had not turned out to prove to him how the British Government was respected and feared. But in right earnest, sir, it is a disgrace to the Police and the Government, that, with the resources at their command, they should allowed the very seat of Government, the metropolitan town of the Presidency, to be made the scene of such lawless turbulence day after day. Instead of shilly-shallying as they are doing, why is not the military ordered out to patrol and clear the streets of the rabble without delay or hesitation? The head of the police has shown himself utterly incapable of coping with the emergency in spite of his so much vaunted personal daring and noble horsemanship which may make a good soldier, but certainly not a commander. The weakness and vacillation of Mr. Souter are, it must be said, solely responsible for the continuation of the riots, for we do not hesitate utterly to disbelieve the scandal that his inactivity is owing to his thirst for vengeance on the Parsee community for their triumph over him in the Towers of Silence case, and that he had therefore played into the hands of some of his designing Mussulman friends,—for he would be halting then his vengeance with a vengeance—destroying at the same time his own honour and reputation. The Government must take the matter into their own hands and employ the military actively to quell this turbulent rout. For mind, sir, show signs of fear and weakness to these fanatical canaille, it is our turn to day and will be your to-morrow. But show firmness and deal with them with the strong hand, they will shrink back cowering. I have seen the military called out on occasions far less grave than this. You must remember, sir, during the late reform debates, how the 'Home' Government thought itself justified in putting down the Hyde Park riots with the assistance of the Hussars and other troops. Let our Government also take such decided action, otherwise the

town will continue in a state of alarm all through the Mohurrum. I trust, sir, also that Government will have firmness enough to prohibit all taboot processions this year, otherwise more serious consequences than have hitherto happened may fairly be dreaded. The Parsees have been yet quiet and unresisting, but now excitement is gathering head amongst them, and it may be discovered too late that the old spark is not quite extinct among them, flaming resentment back for wrong, and daring the issue in defence of their hearths and homes.

P. M. M.

Bombay, 14th Feb.

Alongside of these letters the following authenticated letter appeared in the same issue of the *Bombay Gazette*. It is remarkable as being the only defence put forward on behalf of the Mahomedans up to this time:—

Sir,—In your yesterday's paper it was mentioned that the Cazee of Bombay was not present at the Mosque on Friday, but I maintain that he was there and used his best endeavours to pacify and prohibit the Mussulmans. There was not the slightest suspicion that there would be a row, but I am sorry to say that the boys of minor ages were passing quietly through the street called the Old Fish Market, and on only their calling out "Deen, Deen," Mr. Framjee, Inspector of the Police, rushed out into the street and caught hold of those little boys. Seeing this, others interfered in the matter, when Mr. Framjee hit one of the passers-by. This is the origin of the row. Now, whenever these poor Mahomedans carry their dead bodies to the burial-ground, showers of stones are thrown at them by the riotous and tyrannical Parsees—who crowd together to commit a breach of the peace; and I am sorry to say none of the Parsees are taken into custody; though the policemen are wounded more or less. I hope the Government will suppress the disturbance which is going on in a fearful state.

14th February. AN EYE-WITNESS.

The Mussulman community—at all events, a portion of the community—were not idle. In the morning a well-attended and influential meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Mahomed Ali Rogay, to adopt measures to assist in terminating the present Mussulman disturbances. There were present Messrs. Ahmedbhoy Hubbibhoy, Ali Mahomed Bhimjee, Rahimtoola Sooliman, Ludha Ebrahim, Moonshee Ali Ackbar, and several others. Mr. Mahomed Ali Rogay was called to the chair. It was proposed and carried unanimously, that a deputation, consisting of Mr. Mahomed Ali Rogay and Moonshee Ali Ackbar, be requested to wait upon Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy at Mazagon Castle, and request him to call similar meetings of the Parsee community.

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## TUESDAY, THE 17th FEBRUARY.

Now the authorities seemed to be thoroughly roused. Though their wisdom looked like locking the stable door after the horse was stolen, yet it exercised a vast influence upon the public mind, the heat of which began to go down rapidly towards its normal condition. Sir Philip Wodehouse telegraphed to Poona for assistance, and on this day arrangements were made for the immediate despatch to Bombay of a detachment of First Cavalry, 150 Sabres of the Poona Horse, 384 Europeans of the 68th Regiment, and the 8th Native Infantry, while 56 Europeans of the 2nd Battalion 7th Regiment were ordered down to act as special Constables. In Bombay harbour a battakee was beaten to warn Seedees to keep on board their ships, as gangs of them would not be permitted to land in Bombay. Several cases of individual assaults took place upon Parsees, one or two of whom were attacked by sepoys belonging to the Marine Battalion. Notwithstanding the energetic precautions taken by Government, one question still agitated the public—Will the Mohurrum processions be permitted to take place this year? It was felt that it would be a fatal mistake to permit them to take place under any circumstances, because the excitement which ordinarily characterises the Soonee processions would, when added to the excitement due to the existing disturbances, be certain to produce alarming results. A meeting to consider this matter was held by the Executive Government at Parell on Mon-

day afternoon, and though the *Bombay Gazette* announced on the following morning that the decision was, in accordance with the earnest recommendation of Mr. Souter, that the processions should not be allowed to take place, the news was received with doubt, for no proclamation to that effect had been issued, and moreover the *Times of India* said that the Executive Government had come to an exactly opposite decision. All doubt, however, was set at rest before nightfall. The annual Convocation of the Bombay University was held in the afternoon, and the brilliant assembly, which had met for the first time in Sir Cowasjee Jehanghier's noble building, heard from the lips of the Chancellor, Sir Philip Wodehouse, one of the most remarkable political declarations ever uttered by a Governor of an Indian Presidency. The silence which was preserved during that speech—a silence unbroken save when His Excellency definitely intimated that Government had decided that the Mohurrum processions should not take place—was significant of the astonishment which his utterances created. What British subject in India could fail to be surprised if he heard the representative of Her Majesty say he had no power to act decisively with murdering, plundering mobs? Yet this was the manifesto which Sir Philip Wodehouse's audience had gone to hear, and doubtless the thought flashed across some of their minds that this was indeed a rare declaration of encouragement to the study of the arts of peace for a Chancellor of a University to make before students in a Hall supposed to be devoted to the interests of order, education, and prosperity. The following is the part of the speech which had reference to the topic of the hour. Sir Philip's words were taken down by a shorthand writer, and published by the *Bombay Gazette* as His Excellency spoke them:—

I trust, however, that I may be permitted to depart a little—or perhaps to a great extent—from the ordinary traditions of these Convocations, and to address myself to what I believe—at present the prominent and absorbing topic of interest in this community—I allude to the disturbed state of the city of Bombay. I am anxious that it should be known that the Government is in no way indifferent to the character of the city, is in no way indifferent to the sufferings and losses of life and property which some of the community have sustained. But I confess that I needed some experience of the actual course of these events in order to arrive at a clear understanding as to the position of Government, and as to what were the powers immediately within its reach in dealing with these disturbances. And I say that it finds there is no simple and efficient and practical punishment which can be instantly applied to those creating riots in this city. I say further, that there is no power in the Legislature of this Government to provide, off-hand, full legal powers to do what is necessary on the spot for keeping down such disturbances. I believe prompt punishments to be the essence of dealing with disturbances of this nature, but yet the means of bringing them about here is not in existence. I find also that there is apparently a general disinclination to take an active part in the operations of the established police of the city—that there is a disposition to leave them to cope as they best can with all the disturbances. Disturbances breaking out, first in one quarter and then in another! Yet wherever they may be the police are expected to do all the work! Such being the case, and when they have been harassed from morning till night, so that they have no rest whatever, yet they find themselves subjected to bitter and ungenerous criticisms for what they cannot possibly help. And, moreover, they feel their labours prolonged and increased by exaggerated statements of what has occurred, and which only tend to keep up the sensation in the town. I believe that the events of the past few days have proved that such is the case. Then turn to the aid which Government can give the police under such circumstances—I mean the legal aid. What does it appear to be? It appears to be that Government must have recourse to what in England, and, so far as I have seen, to what in other countries governed on English principles is always approached with the greatest caution—with the fullest possible consideration for what may be the result—that is, the interposition of the military aid to support the police! No step more serious can be taken, and no such step ought to be taken witout a thorough conviction of the consequences that may ensue. At the same time, gentlemen, feeling that such is the

case—feeling that this is the assistance to which alone the police must look—and being fully aware that the festival termed the Mohurrum is close at hand—the Government is sensible that it cannot possibly expect the police to sustain for many days together their prolonged exertions, and to alone preserve the public peace. We feel we must support them, and therefore, after full consideration it has determined that upon this occasion—I say, "on this occasion" distinctly—the processions usual in the Mohurrum festival are not to take place. (Loud applause.) I hope and trust that we shall have, as we have a right to expect, the assistance of all honest and good men, of all classes, to put an end to these disturbances. But we do not trust to the efforts of independent people outside. We yesterday decided that troops must be sent for in such numbers that further attempts at violence will be put an end to. The consequence is, as the result of yesterday's orders that one regiment is now in Bombay, half a European regiment will be here this evening, and cavalry will be here to-morrow. (Applause.) The movement of the military has been effected with the greatest promptitude by the authorities. I feel there may be some here who will say that this is not the proper place for such observations as I have addressed to you, but if such be your opinion I must beg your forgiveness. My object has been to satisfy the people of this country, here in the presence of the leading members of every class of society, that the Government was fully alive to its duty of protecting life and property, while fully commiserating with those who have suffered, and was prepared to do its duty to the utmost during these disturbances.

No speech made in India has been more sharply criticised in India than this one. Sir Philip Wodehouse may attempt to dispose in a breath of the strictures of the local press upon his failure to appreciate the crisis into which Bombay had been plunged, and (for that part of it) may also attempt to dispose in the same way of the concentrated opinion against him of the whole Indian press, on the ground that it had no knowledge of its own of the circumstances, and had to be dependent upon the local press. But fortunately he cannot dispose in the same jaunty way of public opinion on his Convocation speech. His actions regarding the riots *may* not have been before the press of India, but his speech was, and nobody has been more severely condemned out of his own mouth than the Governor of Bombay. Inferentially, the man who could make the political blunder of uttering such a speech could be guilty of the executive blunders attributed to him by the local press. The *Bombay Gazette* of Wednesday, the 18th, published the following leader:—

Sir Philip Wodehouse was well advised to take advantage yesterday of the opportunity the Convocation of the University gave him, of assuring the people of Bombay that the Government is not so zealous for education as to be unmindful that its first duty is to protect life and property. Four days had already elapsed since the riots began, and all Bombay wondered whether the Government meant to go on making no sign, and to leave matters, as the French say, to arrange themselves. The Governor yesterday, however, spoke out boldly and to the purpose; and, as we heartily approve of the policy which His Excellency says the Executive Council has sanctioned, and which is in fact precisely the policy we took the liberty of recommending two days ago, we can but re-echo the cheers with which the declaration that the Government has called in the aid of English troops and means to prohibit the usual Mohurrum processions this year was greeted by the brilliant audience assembled in the Convocation Hall. But the Governor was not content with announcing what he intended to do; he also offered an apology for what he had not done, and there is but one epithet to apply to this part of his speech—it was simply "astounding." We have endeavoured, to the best of our ability, to understand what His Excellency wished to suggest when he said that he had found the Government in Bombay has no power to punish rioters promptly. Does not the Code of Criminal Procedure for India enable the civil power to dispense with the necessity of even reading the Riot Act, so that the aid of the military may be called in with the utmost promptitude? But, says Sir Philip, it is a very serious thing to have recourse to the sword instead of the policeman's

baton, and such an extreme remedy for disorder should only be used after mature deliberation and after all other means have failed. How many lives, then, does His Excellency consider ought to be sacrificed before the official forbearance is exhausted? The military should have been called out last Friday, when the rioting began; and, if the Governor hesitated to take this step, he ought to have gone himself into the native town and tried to understand the seriousness of the situation. Had such a riot happened in Sir Bartle Frere's time, the Governor would have been on the spot within an hour and would have persuaded the Mussulman and Parsee leaders to agree, before nightfall, to make their people live quietly with one another. Even Sir Seymour Fitzgerald would have gone into the native town himself, and tried to put things right. It is difficult to over-estimate the probable effect of the mere appearance on Friday in the main streets of the Governor accompanied by his body-guard; we believe that the rioting would have been quelled forthwith and that the disgraceful affray of Sunday would never have occurred. But His Excellency preferred remaining at Parell and accepting the versions the Police brought him of what was going on; and the Police, we all know, were confident there would be no further disturbances till they were surprised by the savage encounter on Sunday morning.

Instead of blaming the Police for having misled him, the Governor now says that they have been exposed to "bitter and ungenerous criticism," and that the "exaggerated statements" published in the newspapers have prolonged and increased the labours of Mr. Souter and the force under his command. We readily admit the bitterness of our criticism; we meant it to be bitter, and it could not possibly be too bitter for the occasion. Sir Philip himself might have been bitter if he had seen with his own eyes the anarchy that prevailed, and had felt the keen pang of shame and humiliation which must shoot through even the official frame at the sight of a great city given up to the rule of lawless mobs. Our bitterness was excusable, and we rejoice that it has acted like a wholesome tonic on the constitution of the Government of Bombay. As to the charge of want of generosity, we must plead guilty to that also. The generosity of Bombay society usually means the throwing over of public interests for the sake of some "good fellow," who is "very hot-headed, "you know, and perhaps not very wise," but whom really it would be a pity to see come to grief. Quite unconsciously, the Government has talked and acted as if it were a matter of slight consequence how many Parsees and Mussulmans were killed, how long the whole city was convulsed by tumults, how much property was destroyed, how completely trade was paralyzed by want of confidence, or how deeply the seeds were sown of future quarrels, provided only Mr. Souter could be left at liberty to do as he liked. Now the truth about Mr. Souter is this. A more plucky and energetic executive officer it would be impossible to find in India, but he has no head for administration. He is in his element when he hears that a row has actually broken out; for nothing gives him greater delight than to ride vigorously into the middle of a riotous mob and scatter them in all directions. But we want as head of the police a man who can foresee and prevent disturbances, and this is just what Mr. Souter cannot do. He has at least as numerous and well-drilled a force as Mr. Forjett had; but he cannot produce the same good results with it. For one thing, he does not live at the Police Office, though the house at Mazagon was taken for the Chief Commissioner on the express condition that he should live near his work; and, as an example of this kind set by the chief of a department is generally followed by his subordinates, the Police really know nothing in these days, until it is too late, of what plots are being hatched in the native town. The Police, in short, have ceased to be a preventive force, and the last week's experience has shown that they are not strong enough to repress disturbances which a better organized force would never have allowed to become serious. We come now to "exaggerated statements." It is an easy thing for His Excellency to bring this charge against the press, which is always the convenient scapegoat of incompetent administrators, but our reputation is as dear to us as Sir Philip's is to him, and we indignantly repel the accusation that any exaggerated statements have been published in the *Bombay Gazette*. We have scrupulously refrained from giving currency to any statements which we were not prepared to substantiate, and we would respectfully invite His Excellency to point out where we have overstepped the mark. Absolute accuracy is, of course, impossible in reports hurriedly prepared from day to day; but we venture to say that the *Bombay Gazette* has done more than describe with tolerable faithfulness the progress of the riots—it has also supplied the Government with a policy. If peace has been given to the troubled city by the increase in the strength of the European garrison and the prohibition of the Moharrum processions, the credit of suggesting these measures must be ascribed to the press. Only, we recommended that this policy should be adopted two days ago, while the Government hesitated to enforce it till yesterday. Surely, then, it is most ungrateful on the part of the Governor to upbraid us with the crime of showing him what he ought to do.

It is unnecessary to point out that if Sir Philip Wodehouse wanted a precedent for sensible procedure he had it in Lord Falkland's conduct regarding the Mahomedan outbreak in 1851, when the troops were called out on the same afternoon that the disturbance took place. But, as it is impossible to believe that Lord Falkland's promptitude in dealing with the Riots in 1851 was not known to Sir Philip Wodehouse, the conclusion we come to is that he was resolved to inaugurate an original policy of his own, the principal feature in which was an experiment, conducted at the expense of the Parsees, to see how far a Bombay mob could be restrained by ornamental policemen and genial forbearance on the part of the local Government. The following extracts from the opinions expressed by the Indian press will show that this policy did not meet with the favour which was probably anticipated for it by its founder:—

(*Indian Statesman.*)

Sir Philip Wodehouse's defence in Convocation of the inertness of his Government during the early stages of the crisis strikes us as betraying a singular ignorance of the duties of his position.

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Sir Philip Wodehouse's professed expectations of assistance from the public showed how little knowledge he really had of the population. The Hindoo and Portuguese part of the population was too much concerned for its own safety to court a feud with the fanatics; and however much the Europeans might be disposed to exert themselves in the cause of order, it could hardly be expected that they would come forward without an invitation and encouragement from the Government. Had Sir Philip Wodehouse come frankly forward and, explaining his reasons for not calling out the military, had invited Europeans to come to the assistance of the Police, we have no doubt that the authorities would have been powerfully supported. But the Government could have seen plainly that this was not a case where the peace could be preserved by special constables. The danger must necessarily be spread over a fortnight, and Europeans could not reasonably be expected to give over their business for the sake of keeping a Mussulman mob in order. We do not think that His Excellency could have meant to throw out any taunt when he spoke about "a general dis-"inclination to take an active part in the opera-"tions of the established Police of the city;" but the observation did not come with a good grace from the Head of a Government that showed so "general a disinclination" to do its own duty. His Excellency confessed that "he "needed some experience of the actual course "of events in order to arrive at an understanding "as to the position of Government; and as to "what were the powers immediately within its "reach for dealing with these disturbances." Sir Philip had only to go back as far as the days of Lord Falkland to find a clear precedent for the conduct of Government. When the Muhammadan riot broke out in 1851, Viscount Falkland ordered out the military as soon as the news reached Parell, and within a few hours of the commencement of the riot, two hundred of the Native Infantry and a Battery of European Artillery had been posted in the Native Town. Lord Falkland's example would have been held sufficient excuse, had Sir Philip Wodehouse chosen to display a similar promptitude. His Excellency's plea "that the Legislature of his "Government had no ability to provide off-hand "full legal powers to do what is necessary on the "spot for keeping down disturbances," showed a lamentable ingorance of the prerogatives of his position. The Legislature had no need to supply such powers, for they were already inherent in himself as the Head of the Executive Government. The Executive power in India is fettered by none of the formalities prescribed by English law; and the fullest latitude is left to a Governor in making provision for public safety during any emergency. The Governor in Council is armed with power to override all the ordinary administrative forms, when occasion demands that such a power should be exercised, and he is much more at liberty to regulate his conduct by the motto "*salus populi suprema lex*," than the authorities at home or in any of the colonies. Perhaps his long Colonial experience may have rendered Sir Philip Wodehouse superstitious about resorting to extreme measures; but after the events of the last few days he must now be convinced that nothing less will curb the fanatical recklessness of an Indian mob. We must acknowledge, however, that the conduct of Government at the outset of the disturbances, was sadly at variance with the belief in prompt measures which Sir Philip avowed at the University meeting. We think His Excellency would have acted much more prudently, had he frankly admitted that his Government had been three days too late in recognizing the gravity of the crisis, and pointed to the very thorough precautions that have now been adopted as a proof that it was doing its best to make up for its former errors.

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(*Times of India.*)

What was done late on Monday afternoon could have been done early on Saturday morning, if the perceptive faculties of the Executive had not been blunted by dependence on too few and too familiar sources of information. It is not we who affirm that the military should have been called out on Friday. The police proved adequate for the task of dispersing the huge mob which the Commissioner ought never to have allowed to collect. It would certainly be another great misconception if the Executive got the notion that there was any desire for a premature or hasty exercise of martial law. What was needed on

Saturday morning, and what was formally requested on the evening of that day, was a manifestation of the moral and personal influence of Executive power, backed merely by such a show of special and extra force as would then have sufficed to impress the illiterate masses with the conviction that, if needful, there was more to follow. After the Sunday morning affray—again induced by want of foresight and defective arrangements by the Police Commissioner—Sir Philip Wodehouse's enviable opportunity for restoring the old faith in personal Government for executive purposes had been irrevocably missed.

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(*Friend of India.*)

It is little to say that the native police of an Indian city or station have failed to arrest rioting and to expose themselves to blows. Unfortunately their *physique* and *morale* alike—to be fair to them, their training and their pay—are unequal to anything but the ordinary routine of partrolling, sweetened by not unfrequent acts of oppression and numerous bribes. But the Western Province has a Government, and that happened to be in Bombay, within a short drive of the long continued rioting. That Government is the most highly paid, and ought to be the most efficient in India, consisting of a Governor, two Councils, a Commander-in-Chief and a separate army for a population hardly equal to that of Behar, the portion of Bengal now suffering from famine. Not one of the members of that Government seems to have personally attempted to arrest the rioting, even by showing himself in the streets and so far supporting the trembling police. The Bombay Government above all others has hitherto been honourably distinguished by its relations with the heads of the various native communities and sects, but neither Sir P. Wodehouse nor his colleagues even attempted to use their influence with these heads. On the contrary they seem to have encouraged the spirit of partisanship against the Parsees in Mr. Souter, the Commissioner of Police, and when addressed by that community replied in a tone which the local press pronounce sneering. All the evidence shows that the Parsee book, which was objected to, was not blameworthy, that even if it was, the author consented to its destruction, that in spite of this the lowest Seedee and Arab Mussulmans began the attack and continued it from Friday to Sunday, and that if the Parsees then retaliated in a manner which was as cruel as it was sometimes cowardly, they had the excuse of the previous assaults upon them and of the apparent apathy of Government.

We have never read anything so weak as the Governor's defence of his incompetence from his place as Chancellor of the University. Read this:—

"I am anxious that it should be known that the Government is no way indifferent to the character of the city, is in no way indifferent to the sufferings and losses of life and property which some of the community have sustained. But I confess that I needed some experience of the actual course of these events in order to arrive at a clear understanding as to the position of Government, and as to what were the powers immediately within its reach in dealing with these disturbances. And I say that it finds there is no simple and efficient and practical punishment which can be instantly applied to those creating riots in this city. I say further, that there is no power in the Legislature of this Government to provide, off-hand, full legal powers to do what is necessary on the spot for keeping down such disturbances."

We should like to hear what Mr. Hobhouse has to say to that. The Government of India at least, since the Mutiny, rather prides itself—and with justice—on its legislation and summary procedure for keeping the peace. For such an end nothing is better fitted than the detailed provisions of the Codes. If Sir Philip Wodehouse has allowed the City Police to become a farce, and has quietly kept to his official residence at Parell during days of rioting, it is not for him to blame the law. We sympathise with his reluctance to call out English troops to overawe native rioters, but he has had to do it at last, and he should have from the first supported with sepoys the Police he admires so much. Not only his Police, but his magisterial machinery for applying the law would seem to be defective, from the necessity His Excellency is under of imploring the one English Magistrate in the Island to forego his privilege leave until the rioters of both sects are tried. This miserably mismanaged business, following on the weak attempts at irritating legislation, affords an additional illustration of the danger of allowing jobbing Ministers in England to reward old Colonial officials, as well as poor Peerlings, by such Governments as those of Bombay and Madras.

As to keeping the peace of the city for the future, the *Bombay Gazette* is right. The Island has no Volunteer force like that of Calcutta and Madras. Evidently the fact must henceforth be recognised that Volunteer corps are required in India not merely for defence, against a spirit like that of Fifty-seven, but to keep the peace among the rival sects and ruffians in the great cities, where population and wealth are annually growing.

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(*Englishman.*)

It is impossible to compare the careers of the Governors whom Providence, as represented by the Secretary of State, has placed over the minor Presidencies of late, with those of their contemporary Lieutenant-Governors in the Bengal Presidency, without coming to the conclusion that either India is very unfairly treated in the selection of men for the former posts, or that the Indian Civil Service is, after all a much better field to select from than exists in England. It may, indeed, be doubted whether there has been a single Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, the N. W. Provinces, or Bengal, whom the public would willingly have changed for the best of the last four Governors of Bombay and Madras; yet the former category includes men of the calibre of Sir Frederick Halliday, Mr. Edmonstone, and Mr. Davis. We might, perhaps, go further, and search the Colonies for the past six years, without finding an administrator whom we would willingly take in exchange for the most mediocre of our Civilian Lieutenant-Governors.

Bombay, however, would seem to have been ex-

exceptionally unfortunate in her last two Governors. As for the gentleman who at present holds the reins at Parell, when we consider the circumstances of the late riots, and read his Convocation speech, we cannot help admiring the patience of our contemporaries on the other side of India. Never, perhaps, was there a case in which the Governor-General, had he possessed the power of summarily superseding a Governor, would have been better justified in exerting it.

The failure of the Governor—it seems almost a mockery to so describe a man who makes no visible attempt to govern, and who whines like a persecuted schoolboy when he seeks to justify his policy—to exert himself for the preservation of order, while the city was given over to the mob, was in itself disgraceful enough. The speech is infinitely more disgraceful than the failure. We may be using harsh terms, but if they are too harsh, it is because the exhibition made of himself by Sir Philip Wodehouse is so utterly miserable as to suggest that pity is a sentiment more appropriate to the occasion than indignation.

To begin with, could anything be more wretched than his Governor's declaration that he was anxious for it to be known that he was in no way indifferent to the welfare and safety of the city? To what a state of conscience-strickenness must a man in his position have been reduced before he could have been led thus to accuse himself! He "needed some experience of the actual course of these events in order to arrive at a clear understanding of the position of the Government." We can believe it. Sir Philip Wodehouse has plainly had no experience of emergencies; and it had probably never entered his head to consider beforehand what he would do in one. But what should we think of the captain who omitted to take any precautions during a storm, in order to arrive at a clear understanding of the position of his ship? of a general who neglected to return the enemy's fire in order to realise more accurately the position of an army under a shower of shot and shell?

As to Sir Philip Wodehouse's pretended discovery that "there is apparently a general disinclination to take an active part in the operations of the established police of the city," it is really very difficult to understand what he means. How were the public to assist the police? If spontaneously, by individual and unorganised action, all we can say is that such a course would have added to the danger rather than allayed it; would have converted the riot into a general tumult. In thus accusing the public of remissness, Sir Philip Wodehouse condemns himself as plainly as in any part of his speech. If he felt that the aid of the general public was necessary, it was his business to invite it, and to furnish the means of organising it.

Then, what does Sir Philip Wodehouse mean by saying that "there is no power in the Legislature of this Government to provide off-hand full legal powers to do what is necessary on the spot for keeping down such disturbances?" Even were this the case, which it certainly is not, what are we to think of the Governor who proclaims to an excited populace, engaged in riot, plunder, and bloodshed, that he has no power to keep them down?

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(*English man*, Feb. 20.)

ALL the Bombay papers received yesterday have leading articles on the recent disgraceful riots, and several columns of each paper are devoted to descriptions and accounts of the atrocities committed by the enraged rioters. The matter is a very serious one, and after a careful perusal of the accounts given by eye-witnesses and others, we are compelled to endorse the unanimous verdict of the Bombay Press regarding the utter inefficiency of the police and the inadequacy of the steps taken by the local Government to quell the riot. The Bombay Government and police will not find it easy to convince the Indian public that there has not been a gross want of discipline and energy displayed at this critical period. The local press has, as we have stated, already spoken out strongly on the subject, and condemned, in unmeasured terms, the utter inefficiency of the police on the occasion; and we repeat that, on the evidence before us, we can only endorse this condemnation. Mr. Maclean says Mr. Souter, the Commissioner of Police, complained that the force under him was insufficient to deal with the mob; but, in so saying, he simply condemned himself, for it was his clear duty in that case to call for immediate assistance from the military. Indeed, it seems to us that, under any circumstances, the military should have been called out, and the streets cleared and held by the troops. The rioters were evidently in such a state of hot ungovernable fury that nothing but the sternest demonstration of power could have brought them to their senses, and they should have been treated as any body of rioters would, under similar circumstances, be treated in England. It happens most marvellously that the list of killed and wounded is small, but the descriptions of the purposeless damage done to property show that the inhabitants of many of the attacked houses only escaped because they were not found by the rioters. Again, the enormous excess of the Mahomedan over the Parsee population in Bombay rendered the severest measures absolutely necessary, the Mahomedans forming 21·54 per cent. of the whole population, while the Parsees number only 6·84 per cent. Another reason why the military should have been resorted to at once is that a considerable proportion, more than 21 per cent. of the police force, consists of Mahomedans, who could not be trusted, under the circumstances of the case, to interfere with their riotous co-religionists.

It seems to us, then, that the military authorities should at once have been appealed to in the cause of peace and order; but supposing, for the sake of argument, that we are wrong, we cannot find, from any of the reports we have read, that the police, which should have been brought *in force* against the rioters, were ever collected in anything like suitable numbers to dispel the unruly mob. Here and there we read of Mr. Souter "with some constables" appearing on the scene, but nothing is said of any organized attack upon the disturbers of the peace. It is possible that such an attack has been made, but

we can only judge on the evidence before us, and from the reports we can come to but one conclusion, namely, that the police were on the scene of the disturbances too late, that they were not massed in sufficient numbers, and that those who at last did appear were not properly handled.

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Referring to the Governor's Convocation speech, *Native Opinion* says—It would have been still more acceptable, without that portion of it which speaks of the public press. For, we must say, that in our opinion it is to the press that we owe a great deal, the views of the authorities to the contrary notwithstanding. The *Gazette* has come out very strong, but not one atom stronger than the occasion required.

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(*Madras Mail.*)

Sir Philip Wodehouse has felt it incumbent after several days of confusion in Bombay to assure the public of that which he ought never to have given any cause for doubting, viz., the interest taken by his Government in the welfare of the inhabitants of that city. He took the opportunity of being on his legs at the Convocation of the University on Tuesday last, to state that he was "anxious it should be known that the Government is in no way indifferent to the character of the city, and is in no way indifferent to the sufferings and losses of life and property which some of the community have sustained." His Excellency was apparently conscious that facts were against him. The case was precisely one to which the old maxim applies, he who excuses himself accuses himself. There had been inertness and apparent apathy on the part of the local Government, but nevertheless Sir Philip says *he was not indifferent*. He tries to make good that position by the assertion "I confess that I needed some experience of the actual course of these events in order to arrive at a clear understanding as to the position of Government, and as to what were the powers immediately within its reach in dealing with these disturbances." We think that this utterance contains the gravest condemnation of Sir Philip. It was necessary for Bombay to be disturbed for days, lives to be sacrificed, and property to be plundered, in order to clarify his understanding. A man in such a mental condition as that cannot do otherwise than fail. What were the powers of Government? A child could almost have answered such a question! That Government possess great powers in such cases has been shown over and over again in every part of India. The peace was being violated, and it was the duty of the police, supplemented if necessary by the military, to maintain it. Prevention was the one thing needful, and how could there be such without a display of force? In the presence of force, the rioters would have been awed. But Sir Philip Wodehouse could think of no other course than to allow offences to occur, and then to punish the offenders. He says—"I believe prompt punishments to be the essence of dealing with disturbances of this nature, but yet the means of bringing them about here is not in existence." With no other idea of his duties than implied in these words, the Governor of Bombay naturally felt himself paralysed by the course of events. It was strange that he should have been making these confessions at the very time that he had at length got upon the right track. Bodies of troops were encamped on the esplanade, while pickets were placed in important positions, and in their presence the bad characters of Bombay felt themselves intimidated, and in no humour to continue their riotous behaviour. But what was there to hinder His Excellency from calling the same salutary state of things into existence on Friday? The measure necessary was not so much one of punishment, as of prevention, though with a mind running upon the crotchet that punishment is the essence of dealing with disturbances, it never occurred to the Governor to take time by the forelock. The Commissioner of Mysore has shown himself a man of different metal from Sir Philip. We are glad to learn that some days ago, all the known bad characters of Bangalore, Hindoos and Mahomedans, were taken before the Cantonment Magistrate, and bound over to keep the peace during the Mohurrum, so that there is little probability of any disturbance taking place there during the festival, and we may be sure that should the least commotion occur, it will be immediately crushed. Sir Philip Wodehouse admits that he was sadly deficient in experience, and the inference is that in order that he might obtain the benefit of experience, the troubles at Bombay were allowed to assume proportions calculated to disturb the peace of the whole of India. It would not be surprising if one of the first proceedings of the new Secretary of State for India should prove to be the recall of a Governor who, however well he may be fitted for certain spheres, is clearly the wrong man in the position of an Indian Governor. Had a man of long Indian experience, one well acquainted with the people of the country, a resident of India during the Mutiny, been Governor of Bombay last week, it is certain that things would have taken a different course. But blunders like that which has just taken place, or like those of which the inhabitants of Madras are more immediately cognizant, are to be expected when good intentions, a cultivated intellect, political sympathies, family ties, and all the other qualifications for office which prove such delusions and snares, are regarded as furnishing superior claims for office to long and valuable experience and well-tried capacity in the actual conduct of affairs.

It is natural in connection with recent events at Bombay to advert to the action of the Madras Government during the grain riots of September 1866. Though several bazaars were looted, and though Triplicane and adjoining suburbs were rendered nearly impassable owing to dense crowds of famishing and excited Mahomedans and Hindoos, no serious injury occurred to any one, a circumstance which was solely due to the promptitude with which Government called out the 60th Rifles which were then in garrison. These troops, as also the native corps then in Madras, marched morning and evening through the principal thoroughfares in close column with bayonets fixed. There was no putting Madras under martial law, simply because the timely action of Government produced such an effect

on the minds of the people that serious riots were averted, though residents in this city at that time are well aware that the aspect of affairs was very threatening for several days. The action of the authorities was most merciful, though apparently stern, and the well conducted of all classes felt grateful for the assurance which was given them by the presence of troops, that life and property were under the protection of those who would, if occasion required, act with all necessary vigour.

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*(Madras Times.)*

At the Convocation of the University of Bombay Sir Philip Wodehouse told the audience what he thought of the late doings in Bombay, and we suppose what he said was meant as a defence of himself and those who were connected with him in the Government; but a weaker defence we have never before met with. The defence makes out that the police were too weak, physically, to put down the riot, and the Government was too weak morally to render any assistance, and all that the Governor could do was to turn round and abuse the newspapers for speaking the truth. Let us see what the Governor had to say for himself. After telling the assembly that he and other members of the Government were not indifferent to what had taken place aroond them, he said that he needed some experience as to the position of the Government and the power that it possessed in order to deal with the disturbances.

"I say that it finds there is no simple and efficient and practical punishment which can be instantly applied to those creating riots in this city. I say further, that there is no power in the Legislature of this Government to provide, off-hand, full legal powers to do what is necessary on the spot for keeping down such disturbances. I believe prompt punishments to be the essence of dealing with disturbances of this nature, but yet the means of bringing them about here is not in existence."

After reading this passage one is inclined to ask the Governor of Bombay, whether he ever heard of a text in the Scriptures which says that the "Magistrate beareth not the sword in vain." Now, he is the chief magistrate of the place, and yet he does not know of any punishment that can be applied to rioters. Surely, there is a punishment—and a sharp one—that can be applied, and that has been applied in a good many cases in former times, and this punishment can be applied again and ought to have been applied in the late riots in Bombay. When men riot, they, as it were, take their lives into their own hands, and if they are shot down, or sabred by the soldiers that are sent against them, they have only themselves to thank for their misfortunes.

The Governor goes on to speak about the police, and he says :—

"I find also that there is apparently a general disinclination to take an active part in the operations of the established police of the city —that there is a disposition to leave them to cope as they best can with all the disturbances. Disturbances breaking out, first in one quarter and then in another! Yet, wherever they may be, the police are expected to do all the work! Such being the case, and when they have been harrassed from morning till night, so that they have no rest whatever, yet they find themselves subjected to bitter and ungenerous criticisms for what they cannot possibly help. And, moreover, they feel their labours prolonged and increased by exaggerated statements of what has occurred, and which only tend to keep up the sensation in the town. I believe that the events of the past few days have proved that such is the case."

Does Sir Philip Wodehouse expect the peaceful inhabitants of the place to turn out and put down the rioters? This is what we make out from his speech. But people generally think that, at the back of the police, there is another body of men that ought to be made use of when the former body is too weak to do the work required of it. We do not see that the complaints about exaggeration and bitter criticism are at all reasonable. The press simply did its duty in pointing out the lack of energy on the part of Government. There has been a perfect unanimity on the part of the Bombay press with regard to the shortcomings of those whose duty it was to put down the riot. And not only is the press unanimous on the point, but the numerous letters that have appeared in the different papers show very plainly what opinion the public holds. Sir P. Wodehouse has not shown himself to be a strong Governor. Some time ago, we had to take him to task for telling the natives that it was our duty to deliver up the county to them when they thought proper to ask us to leave. On the present occasion, he has still more displayed his weakness, and his conduct is calculated to do far more harm than were his words on the former occasion.

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*(Madras Athenæum.)*

With regard to the Governor's animadversions "on the conduct of the papers in criticising the police and publishing exaggerated accounts," we can only conclude he has made these remarks as an explanation for the supineness of his own Government in this emergency. That the police of Bombay, as well as the Government, have been found sadly wanting and culpably supine we do not think there can be a shadow of doubt. That a portion of a presidency town like Bombay should have been allowed to have been given up for days together to the most disgraceful rioting and literally for that space in the hands of a disorganised rabble admits of no apology or explanation so far as the constituted authorities are concerned. Had they acted with promptitude and decision at the first outbreak of the disturbances, we are satisfied the whole riot would have been nipped in the bud, instead of having increased in strength for several days. So soon as it was discovered the police were unequal to the emergency—and this fact has been admitted by Mr. Souter himself—martial law should have been proclaimed, when we are satisfied quietness would have been insured at once. The rioters believed (and rightly so) that no force would be sent against them except the police, and

this force they were aware they were more than a match for. We shall be glad to learn how the Government of Bombay intend defending the action of the police, and that the same have been too severely criticised by our Bombay contemporaries. As for the exaggeration of the accounts, we much doubt whether the Government of Bombay will ever be able to make this statement good. Several gentlemen have described in detail what actually came under their own notice, and the details of the scene furnished by them leave no doubt in our own minds that the accounts have not been exaggerated. We feel certain that for some time the Government completely underrated the critical condition of the city—and hence the apathy that was shown for several days. It is evident also that the police were taken quite unawares, and had no conception there was such a storm brewing. But had they been fully acquainted with the magnitude of the danger it is now quite clear that they were impotent to avert it, without calling in the aid of the military. We trust—indeed we feel sure—that the steps now taken by the Government will be sufficient to insure tranquillity to Bombay during the present Mohurrum.

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(*Cochin Argus, March* 7.)

We may look into the matter in whatever light we please, but the conviction remains unshaken that the Government of Bombay had failed to do its duty in the first three days of the Bombay riots. It had permitted the whole city to be thrown into a panic and the most disgraceful and riotous scenes to be enacted therein, before it awoke to the necessity of calling out the military to preserve order, or of taking any step to put down the disturbances. But when it was too late, when the houses of the Parsees had been broken into and looted, when their property had been destroyed and when their fire-temples had been desecrated, Sir Philip Wodehouse spoke that the Government was alive to its duty of protecting life and property; and he spoke to provoke the more severe but merited comments of the press on his previous inactivity. A portion of his speech at the Convocation of the University, which referred to the riots, is so *recherche*, and contains so many statements which had better not been made, that we quote it here. His Excellency said:—I hope and trust that we shall have, as we have a right to expect, the assistance of all honest and good men, of all classes to put an end to these disturbances. But we do not trust to the efforts of independent people outside. We yesterday decided that troops must be sent for in such numbers that further attempts at violence will be put an end to. The consequence is, as the result of yesterday's orders that one regiment is now in Bombay, half a European Regiment will be here this evening and cavalry will be here to-morrow. The movement of the military has been effected with the greatest promptitude by the authorities. I feel there may be some here who will say that this is not the proper place for such observations as I have addressed to you, but if such be your opinion, I must beg your forgiveness. My object has been to satisfy the people of this country here in the presence of the leading members of every class of society that the Government was fully alive to its duty of protecting life and property, while fully commiserating with those who have suffered, and was prepared to do its duty to the utmost during these disturbances."

On the fourth day of the riots, Sir Philip Wodehouse spoke as above, just as the rioters had exhausted their fanaticism and commenced to settle down in peace. There was of course the military called out the previous day, but we are speaking of the apathy and culpable negligence of the Bombay Government to restore order in the beginning of the disturbances. It proved itself on the first two days utterly incapable to cope with the difficulty; and the utterances of His Excellency the Governor at the Convocation have, therefore, placed it in the most ridiculous position. Sir Philip believed that the "assistance of all honest and good men" would be forthcoming to quell the riots. His Excellency, by stating this, has condemned himself; for, it would appear as if he were willing to leave Bombay to take care of itself during the riots. The Commissioner of Police and the Government of Bombay took no measures whatever to obtain such assistance; no special constables were sworn, and not a request was made for the aid of "honest and good men," until that aid was simply unnecessary. Bombay has no volunteer corps that would have been of immense service on this occasion. Were a volunteer corps in existence, the late riots would never have occurred. Or if any disturbance did break out, it could have been at once suppressed by the volunteers and the police. It speaks very little for the administration of Bombay that the capital of Western India should not have an institution, which exists to some advantage in less important places. We learn that when a movement was made to establish a volunteer corps in Bombay, the Bombay Government met it with coldness, and then the matter dropped. The occurrence of the riots will, it is hoped, impress on that Government the utility of a volunteer corps in Bombay. It should endeavour now to retrieve that credit, which it has lost, by the adoption of active measures to prevent similar riots at any future time. The Police of Bombay require strengthening. There is no doubt about it. And it is our opinion that Mr. Souter, the Commissioner of Police, has mistaken his vocation; the sooner then he gives up his present appointment, the better for the interests and safety of the public. His wholesale condemnation of the Parsees on the second renewal of the riots, the expression, the "Parsees be damned" which he is said to have used, and other unjustifiable language, would have been sufficient to secure his dismissal under a strict Government, but he is the pet of the present Bombay Government. We do not hesitate to observe that Mr. Souter is not the man for the Bombay Police, and after the public demonstration of his prejudices against a large section of the Bombay community which he has made, it will be a great mistake if he be permitted to hold his appointment any further.

The Governor of Bombay should have refrain-

ed from making the statement regarding the movement of the military, which he did. He observed that the movement was effected "with the greatest promptitude by the authorities." Now, there could not have been a more disgraceful delay in calling out the military than that in Bombay on the occasion of the late riots. A large number of factories had gathered together, had caused the greatest confusion, had plundered unbroken heads for two days together, and till then there was no sign of any military movement nor of any action on the part of the Government to disperse them. Still Sir Philip Wodehouse has the assurance to say that the military was promptly called out! His Excellency has evidently tried to make the best of his position as soon as he was on his legs; but we have seen how miserably he has failed in the attempt.

The statement that the Government was prepared to protect life and property and to do its best to put down the disturbances, must have produced something like derision from sensible people. Did Sir Philip mean to perpetrate a "good," when he made it? We cannot understand it. Instead of activity, there was the greatest apathy on the part of the Government for several days, and as it has been expressed, all concerned were in the soundest slumber from first to last.

Sir Philip Wodehouse has shown how unworthy he is to hold the position of a Governor, and it would not be surprising if he be recalled by the new Secretary of State for India. His recall would be decidedly good to Bombay.

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*(Saturday Review, Feb. 24.)*

THE Government of Bombay will find it a hard task to justify its conduct in the recent riots at Bombay. The neglecting to take proper precautions, after the first outbreak, to prevent any further attempts at rioting, is a serious charge. It is highly probable that the Government was assured by the police authorities that no further disturbance need have been apprehended; and also that the police were quite equal to the occasion, and with these assurances the Governorship appear to have been satisfied. From first to last in this rioting we see too much of the police, and too little of the power that should control and direct the police. It is natural that a police officer, who is the supreme authority in keeping the public peace, should endeavour to save his own credit and that of the force he commands; but his position often makes him a bad judge of what is best to be done in times of disturbance. In England, if a riot breaks out in a town, the Mayor and Corporation meet at once, and issue orders to the police authorities, then immediately call upon the nearest military force to hold itself in readiness. In Bombay, Mr. Souter, as Commissioner of Police, appears to have acted mainly, if not entirely, on his own authority; and the Municipality, composed of men who have the greatest interest in preserving public peace, who were sure to know the state of public feeling, who also have a special knowledge of every quarter of the city, and who for the sake of their own reputation, would have taken proper steps to put down rioting—appears to have been nowhere. If Municipal Government is worth anything, it should be able to govern the people it is supposed to represent,—at least in such a crisis.

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Your powerful attack upon the Governor of Bombay ought to have a particularly significant effect at the present moment. The premises of an unpopular Liberal Government, the Conservative party will be only too glad of an opportunity to recall Sir Philip Wodehouse, and if the Parsees represent their grievances fairly against a Governor who waits till a disgraceful mob occurs before he affects to discover that his Government has no practical and immediate means at command to put down anarchy in the chief city in his charge, they will be certain of being attentively listened to. Government officials in India have hitherto been in the habit of looking upon the press with a curl in their nose and a sneer on their lips, but, let us be thankful, public opinion is now beginning to find its true value, and the demi-gods will find after all that they are actually locomotive clay images like the rest of us.—*Bombay Gazette*, "*Tatler*."

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THE *Times* remarks—"Detailed information fails to explain—in the sense of excusing—the fact already reported by telegraph that the Bombay riots of Friday last were repeated with aggravated intensity on Sunday. On the Saturday evening it was quite evident that the angry passions of the mob had by no means been allayed. The streets in the native town are said to have been impassible by reason of excitable multitudes prepared for any deed of violence. Even in a civilized city like Paris, the precaution is sometimes taken of providing against bloodshed on the occasion of the burial of some revolutionary hero. But in Bombay, it seems, four or five hundred fanatical Mahomedans, armed with clubs and knives, may, without being annoyed by the sight of a single policeman, march in procession through their foes' quarters, to bury dead comrades whom they regard as martyrs to the faith!"

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THE writer of "The Week" in the *Englishman's Saturday Evening Journal* thus addresses the Editor of the daily:—"You have been very severe, Mr. Editor, on the Governor of Bombay, and might with advantage, I think, have spared a large portion of your indignation for the men at home who appear to regard the minor Presidencies as mere smuggeries for incompetent friends. Very little can be expected from an old gentleman without much experience as an administrator, who is suddenly sent out to govern a country where everything is strange to him. Yet it must be admitted that there is much in Sir Philip Wodehouse's speech which no man with two grains of common sense would have uttered under any circumstances. His standing upin the midst of riot and bloodshed to proclaim his want of power to keep the peace was a spectacle which has probably never been witnessed in India before and for which no sort of excuse can be found. Well abused as are Mr. Hogg and Sir George Campbell, they certainly would not have allowed for one hour the state

of things that was permitted to continue unchecked for three days in Bombay."

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The Bombay papers teem with information and correspondence in reference to the recent riots. It would be impossible for us to find room for a tithe of the evidence brought to illustrate the utter incapacity of the authorities in dealing with the earlier riots or the stupidity of the head of the police in blindly permitting matters to reach the head they did. Such excellent fooling under the name of Government never found a parallel even in India.—*North-West Herald, Feb.* 28.

Many more utterances than these we could quote if we had room; but suffice it to say that not one single newspaper, European or Native, of any importance in India, hesitated to condemn the Government of Bombay.

After this dissertation we may return to the history of the riots. On Tuesday evening the following proclamation followed close on Sir Philip Wodehouse's declaration :—

NOTIFICATION.

Bombay Castle, 17th February 1874.

Public Order.

For the preservation of the public peace during the festival of the Mohurrum, sanctioned by the Honourable the Governor in Council, under the provisions of Section 77 of Act No. XIII. of 1856.

Whereas, by a public order of the Commissioner of Police, dated the 23rd January 1874, certain rules were established for regulating the religious processions of the Mohurrum and for the preservation of the public peace during that festival; and whereas, in consequence of certain recent serious disturbances in the city of Bombay, it has become necessary for the preservation of the public peace to prohibit all religious processions until the public tranquility is restored;

The Commissioner of Police, by order of Government and in supersession of the said public order of the 23rd January 1874, hereby directs as follows :—

1. No assemblies or processions in the public streets, roads, or thoroughfares in the city of Bombay will be allowed during the ensuing Mohurrum.

2. No licences for erecting or carrying about a taboot, punja, or dholeeka punja, or for the use of music in the public streets at the ensuing Mohurrum will be granted, and all licences that have been granted are hereby cancelled.

(Signed) F. H. Souttar,
Commissioner of Police.

Bombay, Mazagon Police Office, 17th February 1874.

Approved and confirmed.

By order of the Honourable the Governor in Council,
John Nugent,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

The stringency of this order excited comment; but the Mohurrum commenced on Wednesday, and the order remained unaltered. Many Mussulman petitions were presented to Government, which it would be unnecessary to publish; but the one reply consistently given by Mr. Nugent, in the name of Government, was that the decision to stop the taboot processions this year had been carefully considered before it was taken; that it had been taken purely on public grounds and without respect to who were the original transgressors; and that it could not be rescinded now. Then a rumour got abroad that according to the Mahomedan sacred law the Mohurrum could be lengthened forty days in order to permit of the ceremony of dipping the taboots taking place when, in consequence of certain circumstances, it was impossible to perform that ceremony at the ordinary time. The Parsee community became excited accordingly, and many letters appeared in the public newspapers, urging upon Government the necessity of keeping a large military force permanently in Bombay. The same subject was taken up by the local press, which advocated the creation of a Volunteer Corps as well as the better garrisoning of the city. It does seem absurd that the chief town of the Bombay Presidency has in an emergency to send for assistance to Poona, a distance of 120 miles away. It has been well argued that there is no necessity for such a dangerous state of matters, as in consequence of the sanitary improvements effected in Bombay during the last quarter of a century, Bombay, all the year round, is quite as healthy a place for troops as Poona.

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## WEDNESDAY, THE 18th FEBRUARY.

People were on the whole rejoiced that Government had decided to stop the Mohurrum processions. About this time a peculiar movement commenced in Bombay. It has been called the "Reconciliation Movement," and consisted chiefly of Parsee and Mahomedan gentlemen meeting together at the instigation of the Hon. Narayen Wassoodew and Dr. Blaney, and expressing friendliness with each other and regret for

what had happened. The first meeting of any importance was held this afternoon at the bungalow of Mr. Ahmed Saib Muckba Byculla. It was attended by about 500 Mahomedans, including, it is said, the leaders of almost the whole of the Mahomedan sects in Bombay. The Hon. Narayen Wassoodew said he was willing to act as mediator between the Parsee and Mussulman communities. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Budrodeen Tyabjee, Dr. Sultan, Mirza Ali Akbar Khan Bahadoor, Dr. Blaney, Mr. Ahmedbhoy Hubbibhoy, Cazee Sahib Abdool Latiff, and it was unanimously resolved by the whole assembly that the Hon. Narayen Wassoodew should be authorised to have a meeting of the Parsees called, or to take such other measures for the purpose of bringing about peace and reconciliation between the Mahomedans and Parsees as he might consider proper. The Hon. Narayen Wassoodew cheerfully accepted the task assigned to him by the meeting, and hoped that complete peace and order would be restored by the united exertions of the Parsees and Mahomedans. This movement, though well-intentioned, does not seem to have been a very wise one, inasmuch as the class of men who were "reconciled" by it did not include the Mahomedans who had actually broken out in riot against the Parsees. Public opinion expressed itself in this direction very decidedly. For instance, a correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette's* expressed himself as follows in the "Tatler" columns :—

That is a goody-goody movement which has been set on foot during the past week between the chief representatives of the Mahomedan and Parsee communities. But in my humble opinion it is an absurd one, and will prove of no practical value beyond pleasing those amiable Parsee and Mussulman gentlemen who happen to be concerned in it. What is the use, can anybody tell me, of the respectable Parsees and Mussulmans meeting together and being told by the Hon. Narayen Wassoodew and Dr. Blaney to bring their heads close together and "kiss and make it up again?" Is it those gentlemen who have been rioting and killing each other? If it is not, what, I repeat, is the practical good of their recent extraordinary ebullitions of loving kindness? It seems to me that if these Mussulman and Parsee hobnobbings are right in principle, then logically the respectable Parsees and Mussulmans are putting themselves in a serious position. If they find it necessary, for the sake of public peace, to meet and apologise to each other, then they must be prepared for the inference that they are responsible for the recent outbreaks, because people cannot apologise to each other and profess reconciliations unless they have done something which demands an apology or a reconciliation. I am inclined to follow that part of the native press which has cried out upon the hollowness of these reconciliation meetings, and I think it would have been judicious for the so-called peacemakers to allow the present bad feeling between the *lowest* classes of the antagonistic communities to die a natural death. Surely the respectable Mahomedans who are so much canvassed do not desire to be understood as representing the Seedee and other low-class Mahomedans who have been amusing themselves in looting Parsee property and desecrating Parsee sacred places. If they do, they ought to be held responsible for the original outbreak of disturbances; if they do not, I cannot understand what *locus standi* they have in these reconciliation meetings. It would be infinitely more to the purpose if the scum of Mahomedanism in Bombay could be got together to sit for an hour or so in the company of representatives of all classes of the Parsee community so that they might become accustomed to the sight of a Parsee without desiring either to take his life or to loot his property. While on this subject, I must express my admiration of the firm and truly conciliatory tone which Mr. Nugent has exhibited in all the replies to Mahomedan petitions to which he has put his name. Much more good is likely to come from such resolutions of Government than the weakness which the representatives of the Parsee community are now showing after Government has taken up a decided position for the preservation of the peace—a weakness which, I am told, is, under the absurd reconciliation movement between parties who have never quarrelled, likely to be carried so far that Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy and a few others will actually go to Government House to-day to ask Sir Philip Wodehouse to permit the Mohurrum processions to take place after all! I trust that the Governor will appreciate the "reconciliation" business at its true value, and keep firm in his resolution to permit the Mohurrum processions to take place under no circumstances whatever this year.

And contemporaneously the *Bombay Gazette* published the following leading article on the subject :—

The answer given by the Government of Bombay to the 2,000 Mahomedans who had asked that the prohibition of the Taboot processions might be annulled offers a favourable contrast in style and substance to the unguarded utterances of the Governor himself when he received the petitioners on Wednesday. Mr. Nugent has written a well-considered and judicious letter; and the reasons he assigns for the action of Government in stopping the processions are such as must commend themselves to the approval of all good citizens. With deplora-

ble want of tact, Sir Philip Wodehouse had told the Mahomedan leaders that he believed they were in earnest in trying to keep the peace, but that he could not let them have their processions this year, as the Parsees might possibly insult or attack them, and so provoke a riot which would lead to lamentable loss of life. Anybody who knows how great is the natural timidity of the Parsees must smile at the notion that they would venture openly to say or do anything to offend an excited crowd of Mahommedan fanatics, in the presence of a large military force under orders to shoot down all rioters without distinction of caste or race; and, even if the Governor held the opinion that such a remote contingency was possible, surely a man in his exalted position ought to have kept his opinion to himself, instead of suggesting to the Mahommedancommunity that the performance of certain of their religious ceremonies had been interdicted because the Parsees could not be relied upon not to break the law. The Government of Bombay has, we are glad to observe, avoided repeating the mischievous error of Sir Philip Wodehouse. Mr. Nugent simply informs the Mahommedan petitioners that the Government considers "the "prohibition of the processions indispensable "to prevent loss of life and unlawful destruction "of property." The prohibition cannot, in fact, be justified unless the Government believe, as we do, that the scum of the Mussulman population engaged in these processions would have been worked up by religious fervour, singing, dancing, shouting, and other stimulants, into a state of ungovernable fury, which would have made them reckless of the efforts of both police and military to control their excesses. This was the only possible source of danger to the public peace.

In the second paragraph of Mr. Nugent's letter, His Excellency in Council expresses a feeling of sympathy which all will share with the respectable Mussulmans, the continuity of whose religious observances must be broken this year on account of the misconduct of their caste-fellows. But we cannot help thinking that His Excellency in Council credits these respectable citizens with an influence which they do not possess, when he dwells upon "the "restoration of good feeling between the Ma- "hommedans and the Parsees" as the chief security he can hope to gain for the future maintenance of order. How can sensible men, responsible for the peace of Bombay, have faith in the efficacy of such good resolutions as have been adopted by well-disposed Mahommedans and are likely to be accepted by well-disposed Parsees, at the instance of Mr. Narayen Vasudeo and Dr. Blaney? The negotiators have acted from the best of motives, and they deserve the thanks of the community for their laudable exertions to extinguish the causes of strife in Bombay. But it seems to us that they have been making prodigious efforts to reconcile people who had never had any quarrel. Mr. Cumroodeen Tyabjee and Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy have, we imagine, been on the best of terms all through the disturbances between Mahommedans and Parsees, and the public renewal by such men of their vows of eternal friendship will have no effect whatever in preventing the outbreak of similar disturbances hereafter. According to Mr. Souter, the respectable Mussulmans who are now protesting that they wish to promote good feeling between their own people and the Parsees gave him more than a fortnight ago the strongest assurances that no breach of the peace was likely to be committed. Either, then, their promises cannot be trusted, or (and this is the more likely explanation of their failure to keep their word) they have not influence enough over the more turbulent section of the Mahommedan population to persuade them to live at peace with their neighbours and respect the law. The men who began the rioting on the 13th inst. can, in fact, only be governed through their fears. A properly organized Police might be able to keep them in order; but at all events, till we have such a Police, we have nothing to rely upon, for the preservation of order in Bombay, but the presence of a military force ready at any moment to teach either Mussulman or Parsee rioters exactly what is meant by the strong arm of the law. All the talk about the reconciliation of warring sects, and so forth, is mere moonshine.

To save adverting to this movement again, we shall depart slightly from the chronological arrangement of this pamphlet, and detail its progress down to the time of its collapse. The Parsees, who were the attacked persons, naturally did not enter enthusiastically into the Hon. Mr. Narayen's project, for which their representatives (Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Mr. Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, Mr. Dinshaw Maneckjee Petit, Mr. Merwanjee, &c.,) were snubbed by Sir Philip Wodehouse on Monday the 23rd February when they called upon him at Parell. On Tuesday the 24th a meeting of the members of the Parsee deputation was held at the Fort house of the Sir Jamsetjee family, at which there were present Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Messrs. Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, Dinshaw Manockjee Petit, Cursetjee Furdoonjee Parukh, Merwanjee Framjee Panday, Muncherjee Hormusjee Cama, Jehanghir Merwanjee Pleader, and a few residents of Shaik Abdool Rahmon Street. It was considered desirable to send

for the Hon. Narayen Wassoodew. On the arrival of that gentleman, the business of the meeting was resumed; and after a further consultation which occupied about four hours, the meeting passed the following resolutions:—

1. That the leading Mahomedans of Bombay should express their sincere regret at the conduct of the lower classes of their co-religionists for the excesses committed against the lives and property of the Parsee inhabitants, and should seek for a reconciliation.

2. That on the receipt of a communication to the above effect from the Mahomedans, a mixed meeting of Parsees and Mahomedans should be convened at an early date for the purpose of declaring all misunderstanding between the two communities to be at an end and the re-establishment of amity and good-will towards each other.

On Thursday, February 26, a largely attended meeting of Mahomedans was held at Moonshee Ebrahim's bungalow, opposite the Byculla Iron Works. Amongst those present were the Hon. Narayen Wassoodew, Dr. Blaney, Mr. Ruggonath Narayen Khote, Cazee Abdool Latiff, Cazee Mahomed Hussun Moorgay, Memon Ebrahimjee Jeetaka, Ahmedbhoy Habibbhoy, Cumroodeen Tyebjee, Budroodeen Tyebjee, Fazulbhoy Cassumbhoy, Rahimtoola Mahomed Syani, Allaruckia Soomar, Moonshee Ally Akbar, Mirza Hossen Khan, Dada Muckba, Kumeen Khan, Mahomed Syed Purkar, Hussun Rahimtoola Ahmed, Khan Bahadoor Akbar Alli, Hajee Ebrahim Parkur, Shaik Amiroodeen, Syed Mahomed, Rahim Hemraz, Ally Mahomed Bhimjee, Moulvie Hyderlab, Mahomed Ismail Huckra, Shaik Ahmed Muckna, Kootboodeen Toongaka, Fazul Somjee Papia, Hajee Ahmed Alroodeen, and a large number of others. The Hon. Mr. Narayen repudiated being called "an emissary of Government," and submitted the following resolutions:—

1st—That this meeting regrets the disgraceful and riotous conduct of certain Mohomedans on Friday the 13th instant, and earnestly desires that the friendly feeling which has hitherto existed between the Mahomedan and Parsee communities should be re-established.

2nd—That this meeting is happy to find that the mediation of the Hon. Narayen Wassodewjee has elicited reciprocal feelings of amity and good-will from the leaders of the Parsee community, and it hereby pledges itself to take all steps necessary for the purpose of cultivating such good feeling between the Parsee and Mahomedan communities.

Dr. Blaney pressed upon the Mahomedans present the absolute necessity of regarding the passing of the resolutions as the making of a solemn promise that they would be responsible for the preservation of peace and order. Mr. Cumroodeen Tyebjee advised the meeting to accept the resolutions. Mr. Cazee Abdool Latiff said it was the duty of all those present to make the peace sure. The meeting seemed to be unanimous enough about the idea of peace, and it was understood that the resolutions were carried.

A meeting of the leading gentlemen of the Parsee community was held on the following afternoon at the family house of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy in the Fort, for the purpose of receiving the resolutions. It was understood that authenticated copies of the resolutions would be presented to the meeting through the Hon. Narayen Wasoodew, who, however, did not come up as was expected, and at a late hour the meeting adjourned till the following day. This adjourned meeting decided the "reconciliation movement," and we publish the following account of the proceedings from the *Bombay Gazette* of the 2nd March:—

THE adjourned meeting of some of the leading members of the Parsee community was held at 10 o'clock on Saturday forenoon at the family house of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, in the Fort, for the purpose of receiving the resolutions passed at the reconciliation meeting of the leading members of the Mahomedan community held on Thursday last. Among those present we observed Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy (in the chair), Messrs Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, Merwanjee Framjee Panday, Sorabjee Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Sorabjee Shapurjee Bengalee, Nanabhoy Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, Muncherjee Pestonjee Wadia, Bomanjee Framjee Cama, Jehangir Merwanjee Pleader, Heerjeebhhy Hormusjee Setna, Heerjeebhoy Merwanjee Wadia, P. M. Mehta, Hormusjee Dadabhoy Pleader, Framjee Dinshaw Petit, Sorabjee Pestonjee Framjee, Dhunjeebhoy Framjee Patell, N. M. Wadia, Homejee Cursetjee Daby, Cowasjee Manockjee Limjee, Shapurjee Dhunjeebhoy Bottlewala, Muncherjee Nowrojee Banajee, Muncherjee Hormusjee Cama,

Cursetjee Furdoonjee Parakh, Hormusjee Nowrojee Saklatwalla, Pestonjee Hormusjee Cama, Sorabjee Nowrojee Wadia, Jejeebhoy Dhunjeebhoy Bottlewalla, Nusserwanjee Byramjee, Kaikhosroo N. Kabrajee, Manockjee Burjorjee Manockjee, Sorabjee Temooljee Leggatt, Bomanjee Pestonjee, Cowasjee Eduljee Patell, Eduljee Rustomjee, Nanabhoy R. Ranina, Pestonjee Shapurjee, Framjee Bomanjee, Drs. K. C. Bandurjee, and Framjee Shapurjee, and Dustoors Pesootunjee Byramjee, Jamaspjee Muncherjee, and Sorabjee Rustomjee Moola Feroze.

Mr. Byramjee Jeejeebhoy said he had asked the Hon. Mr. Narayen what had been done about the resolutions of the Mahomedan meeting. In the Hon. Mr. Narayen's reply, which was read to the meeting at Sir Jamsetjee's, he stated that Dr. Blaney had promised on Friday afternoon to procure an authentic copy of the resolutions and to have it sent to Mr. Sorabjee Shapurjee Bengalee; and that he thought the copy had probably been sent, as he (Mr. Narayen) had not had yet received it.

Mr. Sorabjee Shapurjee Bengalee said that on Friday he called upon the Hon. Narayen Vasudeo and enquired when he would bring authentic copies of the resolutions of the Mahomedan meeting in order to be laid before the meeting held at Sir Jamsetjee's. Mr. Narayen replied that Dr. Blaney would bring them; and Dr. Blaney promised to send them before 7 P.M. that day (Friday). But they were not sent and the meeting, after waiting about three hours, had, as the present meeting knew, been compelled to adjourn. The adjournment had been notified in the daily papers; and that must have been a reminder to the gentlemen who undertook to bring the resolutions. The leaders of the Parsee community had done all they could possibly do to receive the overtures for peace from the Mahomedan meeting with pleasure and approbation; and they had ready in type a handbill, to be issued as soon as the resolutions were received, declaring the re-establishment of peace and good feeling between Mahomedans and Parsees. They had left no excuse for any adverse remark being made against them. The meeting had now been waiting more than half an hour, and yet there was no sign of the Mahomedan resolutions coming.

Mr. Sorabjee Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy said he thought the meeting might separate without wasting further time.

Mr. Muncherjee Hormusjee Cama remarked that, for the information of those who were absent from prior meetings held in that place, it should be stated that, from the very beginning, Mr. Narayen had been told what he had to do in the matter of the resolutions. He was asked to get authentic copies of the resolutions, and he had readily promised to get them signed, not only by the two Cazees, but also by five or six other influential Mahomedan gentlemen.

The meeting then separated.

In the afternoon the Hon. Mr. Narayen and Dr. Blaney wrote to Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, saying that they had sent the resolutions to the Mahomedan Cazees for signature, but they had not been returned. They, however, thought that the Parsee community might accept the resolutions on their authority that they were actually passed. The following correspondence then took place:—

Mazagon Castle, 28th February 1874.

The Hon'ble Narayen Vasudeo, and Dr. Thomas Blaney.

Dear Sirs,—Your letter of to-day reached me at 2.40 P.M. The Parsee gentlemen, as you must have seen from the appointment in the newspapers, met at 10 A.M., and after waiting for one hour for the promised copy of the resolutions the meeting broke up at 11 o'clock. You have not explained why the Cazees, as the representatives of the Mahomedan community who were present at the meeting, have so long delayed sending us the document with their signatures. Without receiving the document signed by some members of the Mahomedan community holding a recognised position among the people, I hope you will agree with the leading members of the Parsees in thinking that they could not proceed in the matter.

I shall, however, be very glad to have the resolutions when returned to you signed as arranged,—I remain, &c.,

JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHOY.

Bombay, 28th February 1874.

The Hon'ble Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bart., C.S.I.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of this date reached us at 8 P.M.

It appears from that letter that the Parsee gentlemen who are associated with you are unable to recognise us in regard to the resolutions passed at the public meeting of Muhetmedans held on Thursday last. It is therefore out of our power to do more than refer you to "the members of the Mahomedan community holding a recognised position among the people." Should the Cazees in the interval favour us with the document you require it will afford us much pleasure to send it on to you without loss of time.—We are, &c.,

NARAYEN VASUDEO.
THOMAS BLANEY.

And this peevish communication appropriately terminated the "reconciliation movement." No explanation why the Cazees did not sign the documents sent to them by the Hon. Mr. Narayen and Dr. Blaney has been given to the public.

We may now resume our narrative. On Wednesday afternoon Sir Philip Wodehouse visited the native town. In the forenoon at the Fort Police Court, before Mr. Nana Morojee, thirty-seven Mussulmans, charged with rioting at Sonapore on Sunday the 15th, were brought up for examination. Mr. Superintendent Mills'

evidence will be found elsewhere. Here we may subjoin the *Bombay Gazette*'s leader of the 20th February :—

The evidence given by Mr. Superintendent Mills on Wednesday regarding the origin of the affray of last Sunday morning must set at rest all doubts that may have been entertained as to the fairness of our strictures on the management of the Bombay Police. The conduct of the Police, in exerting themselves with the utmost energy to break and scatter organized bands of rioters who were engaged in a free fight cannot be too warmly praised; but what we have condemned is the want of foresight on the part of the Chief Commissioner of Police in suffering any riot to take place at all. Now, confining our attention for the moment to what happened on Sunday morning, let us hear what Mr. Mills has to say on this subject. He tells us that, about 10 A.M. on Sunday, he "saw two Mahom-"medan burial processions, accompanied by "400 or 500 persons" passing down towards Sonapore. "I," he adds, "with about 20 "native policemen and one mounted sowar, "accompanied them." Further on in his evidence Mr. Mills, after describing the commencement of the riot, said—"The Mahom-"medans who had been driven back into the "graveyard formed themselves into a procession "to return home. They were in an excited "state, *and the greater portion of them were* "*armed with sticks.*" As sticks do not, that we are aware of, grow spontaneously in the streets or in Mussulman burying-grounds, it is clear that either the "poor inoffensive people" who allege that they were set upon by a brutal Parsee mob while they were engaged in following a corpse to its last resting-place were armed with bludgeons when they first joined the procession, or that the story is true about one of the coffins having been filled with sticks, which were distributed to the mourners inside the graveyard. We hope that, when the case comes on again, Mr. Mills will be asked if he knows how and when the Mahommedans got these weapons that he speaks of into their possession. The story told by the Seedees themselves, as it has been repeated to us by a trustworthy informant, is that they were incited by some of the more timid and intriguing Mussulmans to take part in a funeral procession which was really intended as a demonstration against the Parsees; that they took clubs with them, while the others more cunningly went unarmed to the graveyard, where they got a supply of sticks in the manner already described; and that, as soon as the row began, the real ringleaders slunk away and left the luckless Seedees to bear the brunt of the battle. There is a *vraisemblance* about this story which leads one to put faith in it; and at all events we have now got three facts established beyond question: (1) the Mussulman funeral party numbered 400 or 500 persons; (2) most of these men were armed with what at close quarters are deadly weapons; (3) a large number of the mourners must have been Seedees—who had no business to be there at all, and who can only have gone for the love of fighting. This last fact is proved by the evidence taken at the Coroner's inquest, which shows that most of the men injured on the Mussulman side were Seedees.

We submit that these facts, when taken together, make up an unanswerable case against the police. We now have it acknowledged on the excellent authority of Superintendent Mills that, notwithstanding the excesses committed by a riotous Mussulman mob on Friday, notwithstanding the state of frantic excitement into which Mr. Souter knew that the Parsee community had been thrown and the fears they openly expressed on Saturday that this very pretence of a funeral ceremony would be made use of to enable the Mussulmans to renew the riots, the Chief Commissioner of Police was reckless enough to let an armed crowd, composed to a great extent of turbulent Seedees, march down in procession into the heart of the Parsee quarter of Bombay, where the panic-stricken inhabitants had already made preparations to defend themselves with sticks and stones against invaders who, as they supposed, meditated an attack on their homes and temples. It is a matter of secondary consideration whether Parsees or Mahommedans began the stone-throwing which gave the signal for the fray. Two infuriated mobs, brought face to face with one another, with only one European and twenty native policemen to attempt to keep them in order, were sure to break the peace. Mr. Souter's business was to prevent a collision between the inflammable parts of the population, but he did his utmost to provoke one; and, after he had carefully put a lighted match into a barrel of gunpowder, nothing apparently could exceed his indignant surprise at the explosion which was the natural consequence of his own folly. May we hope that the Government of Bombay, which has shown so great perverseness in identifying itself with Mr. Souter, will study the evidence of Mr. Mills? If it will but condescend to do this, it will be unable to avoid coming to the conclusion that the riot of last Sunday morning would never have occurred if the Chief Commissioner of Police had been a man of good sense and calm judgment, and had taken such precautions as the disturbed state of the town required.

The Police has now, we fear, gone to the other extreme by taking precautions which are not required and which strike us as very im-

politic. Mr. Narayen Vasudeo explained to the assembled Mussulman leaders on Wednesday evening that the Government of Bombay does not wish to interfere with the performance of the religious ceremonies of the Moharrum to a greater extent than is absolutely necessary in the interest of the public peace; and that the Proclamation regarding the taboots was only intended to apply to public processions, not to private worship. The words of the Proclamation, however, are very distinct and emphatic in the vernacular translations as well as in the English original; and there can be no manner of doubt that it cancels all licences granted for the "erection" of taboots even in private houses. The general feeling is that this excessive severity is a mistake, and that, while all well-disposed Mahomedans would have acquiesced without a murmur in the prohibition of the processions this year, the extension to their homes of the interference of Government will rankle in the hearts of the whole Mussulman community, and be regarded as an insult which must at some time be avenged. The order cannot be altered now, but the Police ought to put a very liberal interpretation upon it; and it seems a pity that the Proclamation could not have been so worded—the Government took long enough to compose it—as to speak for itself instead of having to be explained away. What the Government has to do is not only to keep the peace this Moharrum, but to provide against the recurrence in future years of the riots which have disgraced the city; and a policy which is too overbearing may do as much mischief as a policy of too careless security.

## THE PROCEEDINGS AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MOHURRUM.

On Thursday night a detachment of Artillery with two guns, under Lieut. Boddam, R.A., was posted at the Byculla Railway Station; also 50 men of the 68th Regiment under Captain Boulderson and 50 men of the 21st N. I.—the whole under the command of Major Gayer, S.C., with Major Ducat second in command; their orders being to bivouac there, returning to their quarters in 6-30 A.M. A detachment of the 2nd Queen's was also posted at the Grant Road Railway Station with similar orders. A piquet of 25 men of the 8th N. I. under a native officer was posted at Mazagon, and Major Prendergast Walsh was stationed at the Baboola Tank with 25 men of the Native Infantry. The troops were acting as an auxiliary to the civil power, and the officer commanding had orders not to fire unless called upon to do so by a magistrate. A number of Justices of the Peace were appointed by special notification by Government to hold themselves in readiness to co-operate with the troops should occasion require. Nothing serious took place on Thursday. What passed on the following day may be gathered from the following, which appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* on Saturday:—

Yesterday it was the opinion of many people that there would be another Mahomedan outbreak in the city, and we went to the Jumma Musjid with some misgivings as to the course the worshippers would pursue when they left the building. But we were agreeably surprised at the result. The worshippers trooped into the Musjid at eleven o'clock and left again at one o'clock. These two hours were anxiously waited for both by military and police, who surrounded the Musjid, but their services were not for a second called for, as the immense and motley congregation, numbering fully 4,000 persons, streamed out into the public thoroughfares perfectly orderly. It was some little time before the crowd could be cleared off the roads, and several Mahomedan gentlemen were to be seen busily urging groups of their co-religionists to separate and go their ways, which they did in due course of time. We did not hear an impatient word from any person in the crowd. We understand that the proceedings inside the Musjid, though exciting, were exceedingly satisfactory. The worshippers were addressed by Cazee Abdool Latiff and by the bhangy of the building, the burden of their advice being that the Mahomedans ought not to imperil their *abroo* by making further disturbances. After prayers and ablutions were performed, the worshippers gathered throughout the immense building in groups of 150 and 200, and each group was addressed to the same effect by some influential casteman. As the Mahomedans left the Musjid we looked narrowly at each man to see if he had any weapon, but not a stick or bludgeon of any kind could we see. The whole deportment of the people seemed to us to be perfectly peaceable.

During the forenoon an incident occurred which might have had a termination something like the Sonapore Fight had it not been for the firmness of Mr. Superintendent Mills. A number of Moguls wished to form a procession to go and fetch a body from a house near Churney Road Station, but he refused to allow them to proceed until a military escort could be got together to accompany them. The people, however, moved

away when they thought Mr. Mills was absent, but they were accompanied by a sowar, who pointed out a particular route for them to take so as to avoid localities occupied by Parsees. Near Chundunwady, however, the mob refused to be directed by the sowar, and insisted upon going through a street chiefly occupied by Parsees. Mr. Mills caught sight of this movement and galloped in front of them. Drawing a revolver he threatened to shoot the men who would insist upon going by any other route than the one which had been pointed out to them by the sowar, and, pistol in hand, he gradually bore the crowd back until they were out of the dangerous locality. When they were allowed eventually to proceed they were accompanied by a military escort, and they created no disturbances, as they relished the company of the military even less than they did contiguity to Mr. Mills' revolver.

The bad feeling between the quarrelling communities was toning down, and the belief beginning to be confidently expressed that the Mohurrum would pass away without a renewal of disturbances, when an incident which occurred on Saturday evening made the wound bleed afresh. Who were to blame, Parsees or Mohomedans, it is difficult to say, because the statements respecting the disturbance are many-hued. It would appear certain, however, that the Parsees in the Fort somehow believed that an attack was to be made upon their fire-temples in the evening, and this fear may have induced them to suspect the motives of the band of Seedees who were concerned in the disturbance. We take the following account of the unfortunate affair from the *Bombay Gazette* of the 23rd February :—

On Saturday evening the whole of the Fort was thrown into a terrible state of excitement by rumours which flew from mouth to mouth in very exaggerated forms. There was a disturbance, which may probably prove a fatal one, between seven and eight o'clock, by Seedees and Parsees, but who were to blame, we cannot say. There are two distinct stories told about the affair. The Parsees say that a Seedee mob attacked an Iranee Parsee and stabbed him without receiving any provocation; the Seedees, on the other hand, affirm that they were quietly proceeding homewards from Apollo Bunder, where they had landed after having assisted to load or unload a ship under a Mr. Lawson's superintendence, when a Parsee cried out "Seedee hi! Puckrao! Puckrao! Maro! Maro!" and they were instantly surrounded by a crowd of Parsees and maltreated, and they fled in every direction, as with one or two exceptions none of their number was armed with any description of weapon. When the news was brought to the European police of a disturbance having broken out near the Agiary in Hornby Row, they were, we have been informed, in Bazaar Gate Street. They made all haste to the scene of the disturbance, and found that part of the Maidan adjoining the old fortifications which are now occupied by the Military Pay Offices crowded with Parsees, all shouting, and in a very great state of excitement. Two Parsees, who, it was said, had been stabbed by members of a band of Seedees, were brought to their notice, and the wounded men were at once despatched to Hospital. The crowd told the police that the Seedees had fled in every direction after the alarm was raised that two Parsees had been stabbed; and on some crying out that many of the Seedees were still hiding about the Maidan, a search was commenced, and in a short time a dozen men were pulled out from hiding places in or near the old Ravelins. The Seedees protested that they had fled there for protection from the Parsees, and many of them were found to be covered with blood, while one or two were seriously wounded. On one of them a large sheath knife of rough make, as if it had been made out of a sword, was found covered to the hilt with blood. Another blood stained knife was found upon another Seedee. While the police were engaged in examining the Seedees who had been discovered, two Seedees drove up in a buggy, together with a police sepoy. They said that when their comrades were attacked they ran away to the part of the Esplanade near the Queen's statue, in order to get police assistance, and now they had returned to lay their grievances before the European police. These men, together with all the other Seedees who had been found hidden, were taken into custody. On one of them a knife was found, but there was, we believe, no blood upon it. The Parsees imagined that there were more Seedees hidden about the Maidan, and a somewhat frantic search was made everywhere. Some believed that Seedees had gone up trees, and accordingly constables climbed trees to examine them. Wherever there was a hole we may safely say it was probed in the hope that a Seedee would be come upon. No sticks were found upon any of the fourteens Seedees who were captured, and of these, six were sent to Hospital, and the remainder to chowkey.

On inquiring at the Hospital yesterday, we found that one of the Parsees who was reported to have been stabbed had been discharged, Dr. Anderson considering that the very slight wound on his leg was no stab at all but simply the result of a fall upon rough ground. This same Parsee, named Bomanjee Marwanjee, we saw yesterday sitting in front of the Hornby Row agiary with his leg so bandaged up that he was exciting the commiseration and sympathy of compatriots who were passing in and out of the temple. One Seedee name Salim had been discharged after the contused wound on his face was dressed. Other five Seedees and a Parsee were kept in the Hospital for treatment. The Parsee's name is Ardaseer Jumsetjee, and he has been stabbed in the left thigh and cut across the left shoulder, which he says was done

by a Seedee. Of the remaining five Mahomedans the following record of their cases was made by Dr. Anderson when they were brought to the Hospital :—"Syed Joowara (Seedee) is sensible. He is covered with blood, which oozes out of several wounds on the head. The wounds average from half an inch to two inches in length. The skull is fractured above the left eye. The wounds seem to have been inflicted by a stick. Syed says he got them in a row in the Fort. He had been assaulted by several Parsees." "Barook Murzook (Seedee) has received a compound fracture of the right arm and left leg, and also two contused wounds on the head. He says he was assaulted by some Parsees in the Fort." "Joomah Mahabood (Seedee) says he was in a row in the Fort and was assaulted by several Parsees. Has a contused wound on the left parietal and also on the left leg." "Phelan Abdoola says he was assaulted in the Fort by several Parsees. Has received three contused wounds on the head." "Mahomed Sungoor (Seedee) says he was assaulted by several Parsees with sticks, who belaboured him about the head. He says he was thrown upon the ground and bit right and left. No fracture has been detected, but the patient is in a very low state and has to be supported by brandy and water." Dr. Anderson is of opinion that all the wounds were inflicted by sticks, and he thinks that some of the Seedees must have been very severely beaten, as each contused wound generally represents a blow from a lethal weapon. Whichever portion of the community is responsible for Saturday night's disturbance we shall not venture to say until we hear some evidence upon the subject. But we may add our sincere regret that such a disturbance has taken place, for it is undoubted that the excitement both of Mussulmans and Parsees was rapidly cooling down, and this wretched affair has sent it up to fever heat again. So far as we have learned, no Parsees were taken prisoners by the police, and of the Seedees who are in custody some of them have been merely detained pending inquiry, and may be discharged at once.

On the following Sunday the panic was increased by the appearance in the streets of a number of Arab pilgrims, and it was rumoured in the evening that a number of Arabs had arrived from Aden to assist the Mahomedans to illtreat the Parsees. The fact, however, was that the steamship Neera, chartered by a Mahomedan merchant, had arrived in harbour with 800 Mussulman pilgrims from Jeddah. About 500 of the pilgrims landed at the Apollo Bunder, while the rest proceeded in boats to other bunders. Those who landed at the Apollo Bunder were very properly searched by Mr. W. R. Davie, 1st Class Officer Customs Preventive Service, and on the persons, and in the clothing and bedding of some of them, Mr. Davie found the following weapons :—Five swords, four guns, two pistols, three daggers, four knives, and one can gunpowder. The men went into the native town through Bazaar Gate Street, and their arrival at this time of excitement evoked many comments of alarm amongst the Parsees, but they all appeared to be ignorant of what had happened in Bombay and to be very peaceably disposed. The Seedees apprehended on the Esplanade on Saturday night were liberated on Monday, the Commissioner of Police finding that no charge could be sustained against them. On the same afternoon a meeting was held at Parell, of which the following report was published, and there is no reason to doubt that this report was furnished by the Governor's Private Secretary :—

In the afternoon (Monday) at 5 P.M., Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bart, Mr. Byramjee Jejeebhoy, Mr. Dinshaw Maneckjee, Mr. Merwanjee and other Parsee gentlemen waited upon His Excellency by appointment at Government House. His Excellency informed them that he sent for them in order to impress upon them the great necessity that existed for using their influence to repress the ill-feeling which continued to show itself on the part of the Parsees towards the Mussulmen. His Excellency wished to be perfectly frank with them, and speaking generally of the whole community which they represented, he could not but consider the conduct of the Parsees as injudicious and unconciliatory. They must remember that the Government could alone put a stop to open breaches of the peace, the sore of revenge and ill-feeling between sect and sect the Parsees themselves must cure. The present bad spirit could not be allowed to last for ever, and His Excellency regretted that they had not supported Mr. Narayen Wassodew's laudable efforts, made with the full support of the Governor, in the way which they deserved. They must seriously consider the effect which their present attitude would have upon themselves when the troops were hereafter withdrawn and upon their own fellow castemen in other cities of the Presidency. His Excellency then read translations of the extracts from their own vernacular newspapers, and from newspapers printed in other cities, and pointed out to them that as long as this exaggerated and unconciliatory style of writing lasted, reconciliation was impossible. It was quite certain that the papers adopted that style because they thought it gratified the leading members of the Parsee community, and he begged them to set their faces against it. Let them never forget that at present the feelings which they and their organs excited were restrained by the strong aid of Government, and that this exceptional aid could not always be expected. It would, therefore, be wise on their part to render themselves, as soon as possible, independent of that aid by exerting themselves to restore harmony and cordiality and setting thir faces against all attempts to annoy or exasperate the Mussalmen. The deputation listened to H. E. with marked attention, and, after promising to consider what they could best do to restore order, withdrew.

On Thursday, February 26, the following appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* :—

The Private Secretary to H. E. the Governor | of Bombay has favoured us with the following

communication :—A large deputation of leading Mahomedans waited at 4 P.M. on His Excellency to-day (Wednesday) to ask that the taboot procession might be allowed. H. E. replied that it was impossible to guarantee order if their people were collected for the processions. They promised to give security for the good behaviour of their own people, but H. E. remarked that such a guarantee was one-sided and would not affect the behaviour of the Parsees or any one else who wished to create a disturbance. There was no sign of a settlement and public reconciliation, and in the present state of affairs Government thought it their duty to leave no opening for further breaches of the peace.

Alluding to these and other matters, the *Bombay Gazette* published the following leader on the 26th February :—

The utterly forlorn and helpless condition of the Government of Bombay would move one to pity, were it not that the Governor himself seems to remain profoundly unconscious of the verdict which the public opinion of all India has now pronounced on his failure to perform a ruler's first duty towards subjects who look to him to protect their lives and property. Sir Philip Wodehouse takes refuge from criticism in the congenial society of a select circle of believers in the policy of serene supercilliousness ; and, as he is one of those upright, narrow-minded, well-meaning men who, when a prejudice has been once implanted in them, cherish it as carefully as if it were a conscientious opinion, and who, according to the favourite theory of the late Mr. Buckle, are responsible for most of the mischief that is done in this world, there is every probability that he will go on blundering to the end of the chapter. His Excellency's latest mistake is the lecture he gave the heads of the Parsee community last Monday at Parell. There cannot be a doubt that, since the riots began, many Parsees have done and said things deserving the severest censure ; and Sir Philip Wodehouse gave Sir Jamsetjee and his companions good advice, in recommending them to prune the exuberance of language which is the special weakness of Parsee journalists and correspondents of newspapers who are indignant at the wrongs suffered by their community. The Parsees are an excitable and an educated people ; and, when they put pen to paper, it is amazing how they seem to let their feelings run away with them. Almost every day for the last ten days we have received letters enough to fill a paper twice the size of the *Gazette* ; and we are so far in accord with Sir Philip Wodehouse, that we have thought it an act of kindness to the Parsees themselves to put nine-tenths of these eloquent compositions into the waste-paper basket. But the Governor was not content with giving the Parsee press a gentle hint to be more discreet ; he went on to repeat at his leisure what Mr. Souter had said in his haste, that the Parsees generally have been as much to blame as the Mahommedans for their conduct during the recent disturbances. The official report of Monday's proceedings informs us that His Excellency's object in sending for Sir Jamsetjee and the other Parsee gentlemen was to induce them to "repress the ill-feeling "which continued to show itself on the "part of the Parsees towards the Mussulmans. "His Excellency wished to be perfectly frank "with them, and, speaking generally of the "whole community which they represented, he "could not but consider the conduct of the "Parsees as injudicious and unconciliatory. "They must remember that the Government "could only put a stop to open breaches of the "peace ; the sore of revenge and ill-feeling "between sect and sect, the Parsees themselves "must cure. The present bad spirit could not "be allowed to last for ever, and His Excellency "regretted that they had not supported Mr. "Narayen Vasudeo's laudable efforts, made "with the full support of the Governor, in the "way which they deserved." His Excellency also, in effect, warned the Parsees that the troops must soon be withdrawn, and that, if meanwhile they had not become good friends with the Mahommedans, the consequences would be on their own heads.

These feeble and foolish remarks are, we suppose, regarded by His Excellency the Governor as eminently judicious and conciliatory. The same want of sense is apparent in them which led the Governor yesterday to assure a Mussulman deputation that he had prohibited the Mohurrum processions for fear Parsees should attack them—a statement expressly designed, one would think, to perpetuate ill-feeling between the two races. To us such rash observations seem extremely offensive and unjustifiable ; and His Excellency's concluding threat about the withdrawal of the troops betrays so strange a conception by Sir Philip Wodehouse of his duties as Governor of Bombay that we believe it must be commented upon officially by the Government of India and the Secretary of State. Throughout his address of Monday His Excellency chose to assume that both Mahommedans and Parsees have a good deal to forgive one another, and that peace can only be restored in Bombay if they are willing to make mutual concessions. But we should very much like to know what particular grievance it is that the Mahommedans have against the Parsees, and

that they would show their magnanimity by forgiving. So far as we can make out, they have no grievance at all. The book some of them chose to object to was withdrawn from publication, though nothing had been further from the intention of the author than to wound the religious feelings of the Mussulmans of Bombay. Encouraged by this concession to their fanaticism, a riotous mob of Mahommedan ragamuffins broke into Parsee houses and temples, destroyed or carried off a good deal of property, killed one Parsee and injured a good many others. There was culpable delay on the part of the Police in suppressing this riot; the Government, instead of taking alarm at what had happened, accepted the assurances of Mr. Souter that the affair was of no consequence, and that nothing serious need be apprehended; and, on the third day of the disturbances, the Police deliberately provoked a more deadly affray than that of the first day by letting a procession of Seedees armed with sticks march into a district inhabited principally by excited Parsees. That some of the Seedees should get their heads broken by Parsee clubs, as the result of this incursion, was inevitable, and no doubt the individual Parsees who took part in the riot and have been arrested will be duly punished. The cowardly assaults by groups of Parsees on individual Mahommedans will also, no doubt, be properly dealt with by the magistrates, though they ought to have been prevented by the Police. But the Governor ought not to have left out of sight the provocation the Parsees had received, nor should he have failed to remark the difference between the two classes of rioters. There is not a tittle of evidence to show that the Parsees ever for a moment contemplated any attack on the Mahommedan community or meant to offer any insult to the Mussulman faith; they simply fought against a savage mob from whom they thought the Police were unable to protect them. The Mahommedan rioters, on the other hand, directed their attacks not so much against individual Parsees as against the temples of the Parsee religion; and their main object was to commit outrages which they knew would be resented as the deadliest of insults by the whole Parsee community. It puzzles us, then, to understand what concession the Parsees can fairly be called upon to make to the Mahommedans. What is it that His Excellency wishes them to offer an apology for—for the scandalous failure of the Police to do their duty, for the obstinate indifference of a Government in league with an inefficient Police, or for the wrecking and defiling of temples which were as sacred to the Parsees as the Cathedral is to the Christians of Bombay? His Excellency ought surely to have stated the terms of the reconciliation he proposed. We have no wish to disparage the well-meant efforts of Mr. Narayen Vasudeo—though it strikes us as odd that the Government of Bombay should have done nothing itself for several days, and then employed a Hindoo gentleman as its emissary to patch up the quarrel that had broken out between Mussulmans and Parsees—but what wonder is it that his mission has not succeeded? There is no ill-feeling between the respectable Mussulman gentlemen whom Mr. Narayen met a few evenings ago and the Parsees; but their friendship will not prevent the recurrence of disturbances so long as the more ignorant and fanatical Mussulmans know there is no force in Bombay strong enough to control organized bands of rioters. An amiable suggestion has been made that a number of Parsee and Mahomedan gentlemen should pair off and ride side by side in open carriages through the chief streets of the native town to convince the mob that the war between the two races is at an end; but we doubt if the mob will be so easily convinced. Such mild measures might have been efficacious before blood was shed; they will not stay the appetite for vengeance now.

Sir Philip Wodehouse may find it inconvenient to keep a considerable military force in Bombay; but he will not be allowed to run the risk of sending the troops away before he has so re-organized the Police as to be able to answer to the State which he serves for the maintenance of order in this great city, nor in any case will the reduction of the garrison of Bombay from its present strength to its former weakness be a safe step for the Government to take. Sir Philip Wodehouse slightly mistakes his position in imagining that he can evade responsibility for breaches of the law in the Presidency town by calling Parsee or Mahommedan leaders to Parell once a week and giving them lectures on the virtue of brotherly love. His business is to keep the peace between races which never will love one another, and to have such a force always at hand as will compel the most turbulent section of the population to respect the authority of the Government. Unless he can learn that this is his duty, and do it at once, he may depend upon it that the new Secretary of State will soon find some one else competent to fill the position of Governor of Bombay.

After the disturbance on Saturday evening this brief history might well terminate, because no great disturbance took place, although a number of cases of individual assault were reported by Parsees in the Bombay journals. On the Tuesday afterwards the Bombay police, as if actuated by a spasmodic effort to regain the good-will of the public, be-

gan to make retrospective arrests. Thus several European constables laid informations against a number of Parsees, charging them with being concerned in the Sonapore affray. It is noteworthy that while one of these constables was lodging an information against Jamsetjee Dorabjee Dubash, poor Jamsetjee was breathing his last in Hospital, where, it will be remembered, he was seen and referred to by the correspondent who described the scene in the Jamsetjee Hospital on the 15th February. This active constable said he did not know that Jamsetjee was in Hospital, although the unfortunate Parsee's case was alluded to in two, at all events, of the Bombay newspapers. It was natural that the public should look with suspicion on these "happy thought" informations and arrests, and letters to this effect appeared in the local journals. The ten days of the Moharrum passed over comparatively quietly. Only one incident occurred, on the 2nd March, which caused any alarm. A Mussulman woman fell over a window in the Fort Police Court. When her body was taken to her husband's house in the Mahomedan quarter near the Jamsetjee Hospital, a rumour spread that she had been murdered in the Fort by Parsees. A huge crowd quickly gathered and agreed upon carrying the body to Parell to be a proof to the Governor of the bad conduct of the Parsees. But the military stopped the extraordinary procession, and explanations given to the excited multitude by Mr. Souter and Mr. Edginton seemed to satisfy them, and the body was carried quietly to the burying ground in Sonapore in the evening.

For his advocacy of the cause of the Parsees, the Editor of the *Bombay Gazette* was made the object of base insinuations by the *Indian Statesman* and the *Times of India*. This roused the *Gazette* into making the following dignified reply to his traducers:—

We are curious to see if Mr. Souter has taken notice of the paragraphs which appeared in yesterday's *Times of India*, under the heading of "Parsees Assaulted," and of the remarkable statements, to the following effect, contained in a short article on what our contemporary persists in calling "the Mahommedan" riots:—"The ill-feeling of the Mahommedans towards "the Parsees still continues to show itself in "the shape of assaults on stray Zoroastrians. "It is surprising that this state of things is "allowed to continue in the native town. The "Parsees are apparently unable to walk "through the streets with anything approaching "to safety. A man leaves his home "to go to his work and ten minutes after-"wards returns after having been brutally "maltreated by a gang of Mahommedans, in "many cases right under the noses of the police "and military." This description of the present state of Bombay is, it will be admitted, much better calculated to "increase the alarm "and excitement which prevails," and which Mr. Souter and all good citizens wish to allay, than anything which has been published in the columns of the *Bombay Gazette*. If, then, Mr. Souter has not written a letter to the Editor of the *Times of India*, accusing him by implication of trying to excite fresh disturbances in Bombay, we are driven to the conclusion, either that he does not consider it worth his while to take the slightest notice of what the *Times of India* says, or that, in writing to us day after day to correct inaccuracies into which he asserts we have been betrayed, his object is not so much to restore concord in Bombay as to manufacture a case in defence of his own shortcomings by artfully suggesting to people at a distance that the newspaper which has taken the principal part in exposing his incompetency for the post he fills is in the habit of publishing false information about the state of the town. But, however that may be, we must express our opinion that Mr. Souter takes far too sanguine a view of the results of what the Government has done during the last fortnight. There is calm on the surface, but men's minds are still in a dangerous state of excitement; and, although there has been no repetition of the riots which compelled the interference of a military force, frequent outrages are committed on individuals, the victims now being generally Parsees. Mr. Souter, in his lusty, imperious way, says—"Oh! these cases are mostly "imaginary," and this remark is in perfect harmony with the tone he has taken since the riots began. As a matter of fact, however, many of the cases are very serious; and we believe (though of course any newspaper is liable to be occasionally imposed upon in such times as these) that we have not published the details of a single case which cannot be substantiated. The six cases he speaks of as imaginary we can prove to be real by authenticated letters now in our possession. One fresh case we gave the particulars of along with Mr. Souter's letter yesterday; another is recounted by the sufferer in this morning's paper; a third was communicated to us last Sunday by a Parsee whose broken pate

testified to the truth of his story, but we have refrained from saying anything about it because he could not say positively that the man who struck him was a Mussulman. Nor have we any hope that these outrages will cease, and order be restored in Bombay, till Mr. Souter is removed from his appointment. The foolish things said by Mr. Souter himself and by the Governor must have led the Mahommedans to believe that people in authority in Bombay feel more sympathy with them than with the Parsees; and it need hardly be said that such a belief is fatal to the hope of maintaining peace and quietness in a city like Bombay.

We suggested this solution of the difficulty on the first day of the riots, and everything that has since happened has helped to convince us that no other solution is possible. Of course, we shall be blamed for saying this, more particularly by our daily contemporaries who have expressed similar views to our own, but who esteem it a deadly offence on our part that we should have been able to say what we thought in forcible and telling language. One of these contemporaries has been good-natured enough to allow anonymous correspondents to make use of its columns day after day for the last fortnight for the purpose of insinuating that the Parsees have hired the Editor of the *Gazette* to be their advocate against the Government; and yesterday appeared the following poetical effusion on the same subject:—

"Just for the dibs and the fegles he left us,
"Just for the frenzied applause of the mob,
"For such motives as these of his friendship he left us.
"What can he gain by this pitiful job?
"They from rupees may dole out dirty annas
"—As if *copper* could bring to his conscience repose!—
"Or stamp his physog. on their cotton bandanas
"To soften the heart, while it conforms the nose.
"We that believed in him, swore by him, laughed with him,
"Purchased his paper and flattered his pen,
"Honoured his whims and put up with his crotchets,
"Never, oh never! can do it again.
"Bl—o—rd was with us, old M—l—n was for us,
"The *Indian Statesman* cried out for fair play,
"He alone acted the part of a Pandie
"And egged on the Parsees to riot and fray."

"The second verse," says the Editor of the *Indian Statesman*, with an affectation of simplicity that is high art in its way, "is too personal for publication." We should have thought the first verse was personal enough, to all conscience; but there is no accounting for tastes. It is impossible, however, to be really indignant with a poet whose idol has been shattered, and who is furious at the disenchantment. We can honestly say that we never supposed our poor writings had inspired in any bosom the depth of tender, passionate admiration which breathes in the verses of the *Indian Statesman*. We forgive the unknown correspondent even the offensive imputation he has cast upon us, and we hope that, in spite of this little quarrel, he will return hereafter to his old love, for then how sweet will be the *redintegratio amoris*! We cannot but think that our enthusiastic friend will feel, ere long, how completely he has been led astray by Bombay "society." For there is some show of reason in the statement which the *Times of India*—heavily and stupidly malicious as is its wont—makes in its yesterday's issue, that this journal "will "no doubt recur to its former policy when "the present freak has served its purpose." Our contemporary may make his mind easy; we have no intention of competing with him in his special line of business. Nothing is more likely than that we shall attack the Parsees a month hence as vehemently as we have supported them for the past fortnight, if we are of opinion that as a community they are acting wrongly. If the Parsees imagine that they can use the *Gazette* as they have used the *Times of India*, they are making a very great mistake, and we are glad to take the opportunity of telling them so before it is too late. It would be ridiculous for us to pretend that we have no prejudices or weaknesses; but we neither court the smiles of friends nor fear the frowns of enemies. We have no policy except to do what we believe to be right. As regards subscribers, our opinion is that we give every subscriber a great deal more than his money's worth—the *Bombay Gazette* is, in fact, the best bargain that any one can buy in India—and subscribers who don't agree with us in our estimate of our own value are at perfect liberty to go elsewhere. We are under no obligation to any subscriber or body of subscribers, official or non-official, European or native, and, so long as the *Bombay Gazette* exists and flourishes it will try to fulfil the proper functions of journalism by criticizing impartially all public acts and public men. A newspaper is not, as our contemporaries seem to suppose, a collection, arranged with more or less skill, of so much printed matter, it is, or ought to be, a political power. But we have spoken with too much warmth on this subject, and must apologize to our readers for having deigned to reply to the attacks of ignoble adversaries who, judging from their own experience, seem to fancy that a journalist can have no sense of honour or self-respect.

About this time it oozed out that the Bombay Government had sent home a despatch about the riots to the Secretary of State for India. The *Bombay Gazette* of the 6th March contained the following leader on the subject:—

The *Times of India* was, we fear, misinformed when it stated a few days ago that the des-

patch sent home by the Bombay Government last Monday regarding the riots was a plain statement of events, and did not attribute blame to anybody. The despatch was certainly described by the Government as "a simple narrative of "what has occurred," but in reality this simple narrative is inaccurate and teems with misleading suggestions. It will seem almost incredible to people who have the happiness to live out of Bombay that, although the riots began on the 13th ult. and the despatch of the local Government to the Marquis of Salisbury is dated the 2nd of March, no official report had been prepared in this interval of seventeen days to show the origin and progress of the disturbances. The Government calmly informed the Secretary of State that the Commissioner of Police had had so much to do, both day and night, he could not "frame a detailed report." No report has, therefore, yet been sent to England; and without a report from the Commissioner of Police the despatch of the Government must be regarded as of no great worth. Victorious, and even defeated, Generals have found time ere now to write detailed reports in the midst of all the excitement of a campaign on which the fate of nations depended; but the Bombay Police, even though they have had the aid of the military to keep the peace, cannot find time to draw up a report about a riot for more than a fortnight after it has occurred. Perhaps they are waiting for their facts? Anyhow, the delay must detract greatly from the value of their report.

There were, however, apart from the missing report, other official documents available which might have been sent to the Secretary of State. There was Sir Philip Wodehouse's memorable speech at the Convocation of the University, in which—for the first time in the history of British India—the Governor of a Presidency plaintively confessed that it had taken him four or five days to find out how he ought to deal with rioters. Then there were the official reports, prepared by His Excellency's Private Secretary, of Sir P. Wodehouse's exhortation to the Parsee deputation to go and make peace with the Mahommedans or it would be the worse for them after the troops had gone, and of the reply given to the Mahommedan deputation that His Excellency was not disinclined to rescind the order prohibiting the procession of the taboots, only he could not be sure that, if he did so, the Parsees would not break the peace. Then, again, there was the exceedingly important evidence given by Superintendent Mills regarding the causes of the riot of Sunday, the 15th ult. These authentic contributions to the history of the riots would have helped Lord Salisbury to form an independent opinion on the conduct of the local Government, but they seem to have been withheld, and nothing but the "simple "narrative" sent home.

The keynote of this narrative is struck in the second paragraph, in which it is alleged that disputes between Parsees and Mahommedans "have "on other occasions caused much mischief in Bom-"bay," and that "the feelings of mutual dislike "between the races are widely spread and endur-"ing." These words convey the false suggestion that Parsees and Mussulmans in Bombay live in a state of chronic hostility to one another, and that one class is really as much to blame as the other for any riot that breaks out. Now, the Government of Bombay ought not to make a statement of this kind without being able to prove it. But it is nearly a quarter of a century since there was any "dispute" between these two sections of the community, and there is no reason to believe that the Parsees have any special dislike to the Mahommedans. The fanatical mob that began the riots were excited against the Parsees this year, as they were excited against the Shiahs two years ago, and against the Borahs last year, and as they may be excited against the Europeans next year. The chief duty of the Government is to find out the secret springs of this disturbing force, which is always ready to convulse society, and which, though it may consist only of "the lowest orders "of the Mahommedan population," seems to be well-provided with money and to work mischief, not at random, but with a definite design. The Government of Bombay, however, is content to tell the Secretary of State that "those on "whom the Commissioner of Police most relied "for accurate information gave him to under-"stand (on the 12th) that he need be under no "further apprehension of violence on the "part of the Mahommedans," and then to recount in its own fashion the deeds of violence done the day after these comforting assurances had been given. This is really all that the Government has to say about the origin of disturbances as serious as have ever troubled the peace of Bombay. As regards what was done by the rioters on the 13th, the Government states, we believe, that the riot began about one and was suppressed by two o'clock in the afternoon, and that "one or more Parsee houses "were broken into" and "one Parsee temple "was ransacked and desecrated." Two fire-temples, however, were treated in this way, one in the Alibaugh building in Abdool Rehmon Street and the other in the Bhendy Bazaar; and three or four houses at all events were broken into.' Then, according to the despatch, the Commissioner of Police "was authorized, if he found it neces-"sary, to apply for military assistance; *which* "*on Sunday led to small detachments of Native* "*Infantry being placed in the most disturbed* "*quarter.*" Here we have the important question shirked, whether the military were called out before or after the affray of Sunday morning; the despatch being so worded as to

allow the Secretary of State to draw the inference that all necessary precautions were taken immediately after Friday's disturbance. Nor is the account given by the Government of Sunday's riot ingenuous, for no mention is made in it of the evidence of Superintendent Mills about the sticks carried by the Mahommedan "funeral party." The prohibition of the Moharrum processions is next described, and the course taken by Government justified "on account of the excitement "that prevailed among the two hostile races." Then reference is made to the fight between Seedees and Parsees in the Fort on the 21st, and the whole blame of this fresh disturbance is unhesitatingly laid to the charge of the Parsees, who are also reproached with having shown a disinclination to accept overtures of peace and reconciliation made to them through the agency of Mr. Narayen Vasudeo. Poor Dr. Blaney's name is not mentioned in the despatch, and this seems hard upon him after his exertions to serve the Government in company with Mr. Narayen.

A despatch of this kind cannot fairly be called "a simple narrative" or an impartial account of what has happened. It is rather a statement of the case for the Government, which the Marquis of Salisbury will no doubt give due attention to along with the case against the Government as it has been presented in the newspapers. One important announcement is made in the despatch, that Sir P. Wodehouse's Government proposes to "make without delay an in-"quiry" into the causes and history of the riots. As, however, the chief question to be submitted to a court of enquiry will be, how far the acts of retaliation, ascribed to the Parsees, were justified by the failure of the Police to do their duty and by the admitted impotence of the Government, it is obvious that the court ought to be entirely composed of men independent of the Government of Bombay.

It would be easy for us to swell this Pamphlet to treble its bulk by quoting the numerous petitions sent to the local Government by Parsees as well as Mahomedans, and the replies of Government; by detailing the cases of individual assaults upon Parsees which continued to be inflicted by Mahomedans; by printing more of the indignant letters (many of them able ones) which appeared in the columns of the local journals; we might dwell upon the emphatic contradiction which 361 residents in Abdool Rahmon Street gave (in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 7th March) to the statement made by members of the police force that they were on the scene of the riot on the 13th February fifteen or twenty minutes after it broke out—a contradiction which affirmed that the police were not present until after half-past two o'clock; we might condense the great mass of public opinion which declared that the Commissioner of Police had been misled by his Mahomedan detectives, and that in the Mahomedan community certain men should be unearthed who were suspected of secretly inciting the rioters by money and poisoned insinuations about the endangered honour of the Prophet; But we apprehend that we have already done sufficient to show the great and wanton injuries which the Mahomedans inflicted upon the Parsees, and the weak attitude which the Governor of Bombay and his coadjutors assumed towards the rioters. We may appropriately close this necessarily imperfect history with the following leader which appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* on the 11th March regarding the necessity of any Commission of Inquiry into these disturbances being altogether apart from the influence of the Bombay Government and the Commissioner of Police:—

The inquiry which the Government of Bombay told the Secretary of State nearly a fortnight ago that it was going to institute "with-"out delay" into the recent disturbances in this city has not yet been commenced. It is quite possible, of course, that within the sacred walls of the temple of official stupidity at Pareil there have been many confidential consultations of perplexed people in authority, and that desperate efforts have been made to prepare a case in defence of the Government and the Police; but this is a different sort of thing from a public and independent inquiry, and Lord Salisbury, who is an accomplished critic, may be relied upon to estimate at their just value the interested efforts of men whose reputation has been compromised by the riots to pervert his judgment. So far as the history of the events that actually occurred during the riots is concerned, neither the Secretary of State nor the public requires the help of the Government of Bombay to assist them in understanding what took place. In the ordinary course of law, the evidence already given before the Police Magistrates while the rioters were under examination, and the further evidence which will be given when the case come on for trial in the High Court, must supply all the information that can be expected from any quarter regarding the various conflicts between the Parsees and the Mahomedans and the results of the fighting. As to the *causes* of the riots,

perhaps will be revealed in the Law but nothing certainly will be found out Government which was taken by surprise in the first Mussulman outbreak happened, which, trusting implicitly in the sagacity of a Police force that has no detectives in its ranks, went on treating the rioting as of no account for more than two days, till the indignation of the public fairly shamed it into taking proper measures to maintain order in Bombay. It is ridiculous to suppose that Mr. Souter, who allowed himself to be so thoroughly misled by his subordinates as to the intentions of the Mahommedans four weeks ago, can ascertain now who supplied the Seedees and Arabs with money and set them on to attack peaceful citizens. Yet this is the only public service that an investigation conducted by the Government apart from and in addition to the trials in the Law Courts could, by any chance, render to the State. It is obvious, then, that the Court or Commission of Inquiry which, as we are confidently assured by writers who know nothing of the intentions of Government and who have not duly considered what the Court would have to inquire into, is to be constituted forthwith, could not really serve any useful purpose—unless, of course, Mr. Tucker means the new Court to supersede the Chief Justice and the other Judges of the High Court.

There is, however, another subject of inquiry which deserves Lord Salisbury's attention, and which the Bombay Government is hardly competent to deal with impartially, inasmuch as it cannot very conveniently hold an inquest on itself. The principal matter on which the public of Bombay wishes to obtain further information is the conduct of its Government from the time the riots began (on Friday, the 13th of February) till the day (Tuesday, the 17th,) on which Sir P. Wodehouse announced that he had at last found he had power, as Governor of Bombay, to deal effectually with rioters. We do not know that there is any need for a special Court to pronounce judgment on the acts and sayings of the Government during the riots. The Secretary of State in Council forms a fair tribunal to decide such questions; and beyond the Secretary of State there is the English Parliament as an ultimate Court of Appeal. We really, therefore, regret that we cannot concur with one of our contemporaries in recommending the appointment of Brigadier-General Gell and a committee of officers doing general duty to settle all disputed questions arising out of the riots. The Bombay Government is seeking to occupy the position of judge when it is really itself on its trial. We have not, like some of our contemporaries in other parts of India, demanded Sir P. Wodehouse's recall, nor do we venture to say that our Governor will even be censured for what he has said or for what he has neglected to do. The reasons for appointing or recalling Governors of Bombay are beyond our ken, and all we can do is to criticize the public conduct of such men as are sent out here to reign over us, without caring what may be the ultimate effect of our criticism. Within our recollection we have had in Bombay a gushing Government and an unprincipled Government; and now we have got a wooden headed Government. Speaking indifferently of all three, we should say that, on the whole, stupidity seems to be the worst vice in a ruler. A man may be thoroughly corrupt, and yet clever enough to play his own game without doing much harm to public interests; but there is no remedy for honest stupidity. No Government, we should imagine, could have committed more mistakes than the Government of Bombay did from February 13 to February 17; and, the more strenuous the efforts the Government and its advocates make to excuse its conduct, the more deplorably do they flounder in the mire. It is now said that the Government did not know what to do because the Criminal Procedure Code does not apply to Bombay, and it could not, therefore, arrest the leaders of the Mussulman community and make them answerable for the misdeeds of their co-religionists; and, again, it is urged that the Government ought to have the power of flogging all its subjects who break the peace. (This fancy for flogging people seems to be a sort of mania with the present Government of Bombay: in the new Administration Report it actually asks the Government of India to let it flog the European vagrants in the workhouse occasionally, just to remind them that they are Britons.) But the complaint against the Government of Bombay is that it did nothing; and, if it had not the powers it would have wished for, there was the more reason why it should use the powers it had. Everybody knows the extreme political danger of not stopping a riot at once in India; and Sir P. Wodehouse might well have been content to follow, on the 13th ult., the example set by Lord Falkland in 1851, when he called out the troops and restored order as soon as the rioting had begun. But the Government of Bombay, unfortunately for itself, adopted the opinion of the police that the whole business was a "a storm "in a tea cup." It would not inquire for itself or let itself be influenced by public opinion; and even on Saturday evening, when a Parsee deputation had represented how intense was the excitement in the town and how urgent the need for the grant of military protection to loyal citizens, His Excellency Sir P. Wodehouse blandly replied that the time had not yet come for resorting to such extreme measures. The time only came the next morning, when a fresh

affray had been provoked by the amazing folly of the Police in sending a few sepoys with a mob of Mussulmans armed with bludgeons to attend a funeral in the Parsee quarter of the city. The Commissioner of Police has only to answer directly for his want of foresight in not preventing the riot of the 13th; the succeeding blunders must be laid to the account of the local Government; and we do not see what escape is possible from the conclusion that the Government has stultified itself beyond hope of redemption.

One or two contemporaries have remarked that we must have gone too far in saying the Government of Bombay endeavoured, in its despatch, to lay the blame of the continuance of the riots after the first day on the Parsees. As, however, we have seen the des[illegible] question, and our contemporaries have [illegible] criticisms are not of much importa[illegible]st be evident that Sir Philip Wo[illegible]house and his colleagues can only excuse th[illegible]n-duct now by saying all would have been well after the 13th but for the riotous behaviour of the Parsees. We repeat our assertion that this is the excuse they suggest, rather than distinctly offer, in their despatch to the Secretary of State; and it is easy to infer that this is the line they would take from the mischievous speeches in which His Excellency hinted more than once to the Mahommedans that the Government was very well disposed towards them, but that the riotous Parsees compelled it to put a stop to the Moharrum processions.

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# APPENDIX.

## MAGISTERIAL EXAMINATIONS.

As an appendix we publish the following synopsis of the examinations which took place before the Magistrates of Police :—

THE RIOT IN SHAIK ABDOOL RAHMON STREET.

On Saturday morning (13th Feb.) at the Fort Police Court, before Mr. John Connon, Senior Magistrate, Ambeer Ali bin Ahmed and sixty-one other Mahomedans, engaged in Friday's riot in Shaik Abdool Raymon Street, were charged at the instance of Mr. Alfred Edginton, Deputy Commissioner of Police, with committing robbery and riot, and also committing mischief by destroying property, of the value of Rs. 50 and upwards.

Mr. Alfred Edginton said—I am the Deputy Commissioner of Police. Shortly after one o'clock yesterday, in consequence of a report that a riot was taking place in different parts of the native town, I, accompanied by the Commissioner of Police and a body of European and native police under his order, went first to the Bhendy Bazaar, and thence to Shaik Abdool Raymon Street, known as "Alibaugh," which is mainly occupied by Parsees. I there saw an immense mob of people, many of whom were armed with sticks, beams of wood, and bludgeons. They were attacking the houses of Parsees in that street. There were a number of Mahomedans inside the houses, some engaged in pillaging, and others in destroying, the contents of the houses; and many were engaged in throwing things—furniture, books, and everything they could get hold of—out of the windows. I saw the main body of that mob running down towards the police, evidently with the object of attacking us. We ran to meet them, and when we were about to close with them, they turned and fled. We mingled with the mob, knocked down and secured all the members of it we could, and dispersed the mob. We likewise apprehended a large number of men in the houses they had attacked, or as they were leaving those houses. Many of the men so apprehended were laden with plunder when they taken. I identify prisoner No. 55, Issub Hoosein; also No. 23, Arab Sulliman. I saw prisoner No 55 come out of one of the houses. After he had been pursued and knocked down, I saw some clothing and pots under his cloak or overcoat. I saw the prisoner No. 3 leave one of the houses, and I took him into custody. There are many others of those present whom I recognise having taken into custody at the same time and place, but whom I cannot specially identify. But to the best of my knowledge and belief all the prisoners, now present, actively participated in the riot and robbery I have described, and I charge them accordingly, and pray that they may be dealt with according to law. I wish to add that to the best of my remembrance and belief that Mr. Souter and the police were on the scene of the disturbance by or before half-past one, and that the mob was dispersed and the riot suppressed before two o'clock.

Mr. Thomas Mills, examined by Mr. Hearn, said—I am a Superintendent of Police C. Division. I was in Shaik Abdool Raymon Street on the 13th February about one o'clock. I saw a large crowd of Mahomedans in the street, and a large crowd of Mahomedans in Parsee houses: those in the houses were destroying moveable property and throwing them on to the street; those Mahomedans in the street were with sticks, throwing stones at the windows and breaking open doors. The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police were there, and several of the executive police. From a large house belonging to Jeejeebhoy Dhunjeebhoy several Mahomedans were coming out with property. I saw prisoner No. 1 coming out with this copper pot. I handed him over to a policeman to take him in custody. I identify two others as men who were arrested in the verandah and two others I saw inside, Nos. 18 and 19. Inside the house I saw about 30 or 40. Some were tying up property into bundles, and others were breaking up the furniture. Out of those I saw inside I identify four, and told Mr. Killeen and Mr. Mahon to secure them. They are 11, 21, 31 and 51. Having done that we proceeded to arrest all we could in the house. Some escaped through the back windows and some ran down the stairs and were arrested. All who made for the front door were arrested. In this way we arrested a number —I can't say how many;—but all these persons were arrested in this street. Some were arrested in the house, some in the verandah, and some in the street. I can only identify those whom I have pointed out. As they were arrested, they were tied together and two European police officers put in charge of them. They were all brought to one place opposite to Jeejeebhoy's house, where the Commissioner of Police was, and then taken charge of by European officers, amongst whom Inspectors Killeen and Sweeny and others whom I don't remember. They were kept there until the crowd had dispersed. They were then marched under a police escort to the Mombadevi chowkey. I followed them up and directed them to be kept separate from any other prisoners. Their names were taken, and they were brought here and charged the following day, Saturday, 14th February. I identify this copper pot as belonging to Jeejeebhoy Dhunjeebhoy, as his name is on it. Most of these prisoners were armed with sticks, legs of tables, broken furniture, &c. They used them against the police, several of whom were struck and injured. I should think there were 500 or 600 taking part in the riot at this particular place. The great majority of them escaped.

Mr. J. Killen said—I am an inspector of police, in charge of Bhooleshwur section. I went to Shaik Abdool Raymon Street about one o'clock on Friday the 13th. I saw a great mob of Arabs and Mussulmen in the street with sticks. I should think there were 250 or 300 of them. They were armed with all sorts of rough weapons. They were shouting and waiving these sticks above their heads and coming towards the police as we came up the Parell Road. I saw several Arabs run out of a house in front of an agiary. I went

into the house. Some of these men were caught and some got away. I saw some of them arrested. They were placed in charge of some sepoys on the opposite side of the street to the house of which they were running. I cannot identify them, but they were amongst the prisoners. On the first floor of the house I saw a room full of Arabs and Bombay Mussulmen. They were breaking and smashing up furniture and selecting articles to take away with them. I apprehended several of them and brought them downstairs, one at a time, and gave them into the custody of the sepoys in the front verandah. I cannot identify any of them. I daresay I apprehended 10 or 12 in this way. I should think there must have been 100 on that first floor. Some escaped by the back way and some by the front door. They were other policemen there besides me. I cannot say how many were arrested. I should think I was inside the house for 20 minutes. Every piece of furniture seemed to have been pulled from its place. Chairs, tables, lamps, &c., were broken. The only thing I saw on the walls were four or five pictures, and they had been damaged by sticks being thrust through them. When I came out into the street I went over to the prisoners. These men were on the landing on the first floor in custody of Mr. Mahon, I believe. I identify this man, No. 11, as being one of them. I don't think he had anything in his hand. The three were taken down and placed along with the rest on the opposite side of the road. I went and stood by them. They were counted, and there were in all 62. Mr. Souter gave me orders to take them to the Mombadavie chowkey. Mr. Page and myself and a police guard went. They were tied by twos and threes together. They were all put into one room and their names were taken down. The next day they were brought up here. They had been together up to the time they were sent to the jail. I saw them ushered in by the Deputy Commissioner of Police. I saw them in charge of the escort in front of the Court.

Mr Samuel Page, inspector of police, said—I went with Mr. Edginton and his party in a brake to Shaik Abdool Raymon Street. I saw a crowd of Seedees and Mussulmen in the street. They were throwing up things in the air—Parsee hats, shoes, boxes, &c. I saw them doing nothing else except amusing themselves in the street. We went down on them in a body and of course commenced striking them. I did so because I saw Mr. Edginton do so. They were destroying property and striking at some of the doors with sticks; some of them were running out of a house which I know to be a Parsee house. I acted on my own responsibility. I knocked down as many as I could and arrested some. I can identify some of those whom I arrested. I identify Nos. 54, 28, and 45. I arrested No. 54 in the street. I arrested No. 28 in the street as well, and also No. 45. I arrested them as they ran out of the houses. I saw each of the two last come out of the house. One of them, No. 28, had a stick in his hand. No. 45 had nothing in his hand. No. 54 had a bamboo stick in his hand. After arresting them I went into the house and went into all the rooms. I saw about a dozen of them inside the house. I think it must have been twenty minutes or half an hour after I arrested the three before I went into the house. I arrested some men in the streets and struck at some as they came out of the house, but I cannot identify any of them. As I arrested them I tied some of them up and gave some into the custody of the sepoys. I tied them up in the road in front of the house. It was after this that I went into the house. I found everything smashed up inside. By that time it was nearly cleared by the police. It was cleared before I left. I counted the prisoners and found they were sixty-two of them. I put them in a separate room in the chowkey at Mombadavie. I don't know how long they were kept there. These are the 62 prisoners whom I took to the Mombadavie Chowkey.

Mr. Francis Thomas Mahon was called and examined by Mr. Hearn. He said—I am a constable of police in the C. Division. I went to Syed Abdoot Raymon Street on Friday the 13th about two o'clock. I accompanied Mr. Edginton. When I got there there was a large mob and I dispersed as many as I could, and then entered the house of Jeejeebhoy Dhunjeebhoy. I rushed upstairs and saw a number of Seedees, who, on seeing me, rushed to the windows and jumped out. When I went up they were looting and smashing everything they could. I secured three men—prisoners Nos. 11, 21, and 31. When I arrested them they were trying to get out. I can't say they were doing any anything in particular when I saw them. I made them sit down till Mr. Mills came and told me to take them away. I made them over to the first sepoy I saw in the street. I then saw a sepoy struggling with an Arab. I rushed up, knocked the Arab down, and secured him. (Identifies prisoner No. 50 as the man.) He was caught just opposite the house. He had nothing in his hand. After arresting him I secured a good stick and kept back another crowd of from 50 to 100 men who made another assault on us with sticks. When we closed with them they ran away. After this I saw several arrests take place, but I did not make any myself.

Superintendent Cemmmy was then called and examined by Mr. Hearn. He said—I am Deputy Superintendent of Police in charge of the B. Division. I went down to Shaik Abdool Raymon Street in a hack buggy on the 13th of last month. I noticed a great crowd of Seedee boys running about with Arabs, and crying "deen, deen." I was running down the street when I saw Mahon trying to keep back a crowd. I saw a man rush out of a house a bundle on his back and a piece of firewood in his hand. When I tried to arrest him he struck me with the stick. I followed him and he tripped, and I arrested him. It is prisoner No. 48. I handcuffed him and made him over to some sepoy. I then went with Inspector Longden to where of them was, and we made several arrests, but I could not recognise any of those I arrested there. About 14 or 15 others were arrested. They were secured, and I saw them taken down as far as Pydhonee. On returning, after dispersing the crowd, we saw several Seedees coming out of houses with bundles, and we arrested them. I saw about five arrested. They were handcuffed and sent off to the Mombadavee chowkey. I could not recognise them. I remained in the street till I got orders from the Commissioner to go home. After the arrest of the last five the street was quiet. The five had clothes in their hands when arrested. All the prisoners had sticks.

Constable Gough said—I am a constable of the B Division. I went to Shaik Abdool Raymon Street on the 13th February at ten minutes to one. I was present when the riot broke out. A large crowd collected and I went down to it at about five minutes to one. I had been on duty near the mosque. They commenced to leave the mosque at a quarter to one. When I went to the crowd I saw one lot breaking the screens in front of the shops and arming themselves with the bamboos; others were already armed. Others were pelting stones and trying to break open the door of a Parsee house. I asked what was the matter, and tried to pacify them, but had not the least effect on them. I sent a sepoy in a buggy to the Commissioner of Police. I then moved down with the mob to the Alibaug temple. The crowd rushed into the temple, and into the houses. I again tried to pacify the men, but was told by a Bombay Mussulman that the best thing I could do was to clear out. I got as close under the wall as I could. In about a quarter of an hour I saw the Commissioner and several police officers coming up. I joined them. The mob then began to disperse. I did not see any ordinary passers by on the road at the time. It would have been impossible for a buggy to have

passed. I and some other policemen stood in front of the Parsee houses. I went into Jeejeebhoy Dhunjeebhoy's house and met an Arab coming out with an iron bar in his hand. I arrested him; his number is 55. I went back again and I met another Arab. He bolted, and I followed him and arrested him. (Identifies No. 14.) I tied him up with bed tape and handed him over to the sepoys. I was going back, when he broke loose and knocked down two or three sepoys and ran away. I chased him again and caught him and handcuffed him. I then heard that a Parsee was badly wounded, so I went to see him, and took him to the hospital. When I came back the crowd had cleared out of the house. I saw some arrests made of Seedees who came out of the temple and some of the houses. The mob mostly left the street five minutes after the police arrived. The majority of those who were arrested were taken out of the temple and the houses. I saw the batch of prisoners all paraded in front of the houses, but I did not see them go off to chowkey.

Khan Bahadoor Meer Abdool Ali said—I am Inspector in the Bombay Police. On the 13th of last month I was on duty at the Jumma Musjid and I left it at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, and went to Syed Abdool Raymon Street. I there saw a crowd of men and boys near the police chowkey. They were shouting and crying out, "deen, deen." They were more than 200 persons in the crowd. A few policemen were with me. Mr. Souter and Mr. Edginton were not then there. I sent information to the Commissioner's Office. Shortly afterwards a large number of Seedees and Arabs came from the direction of the Chuckla. They commenced to tear down the iron shades of the shops, break the rails and break open the doors of the Parsee houses. I did not see any of them enter the houses at that time. A number of the crowd ran towards Meer Ommaker's Street and I and the policemen with me prevented them from entering. One Adum was with us and rendered us great assistance. I met Mr. Raymond, Inspector of Police, there and he assisted me. We then went towards Allibagh and saw the Arabs and Seedees breaking open the doors and throwing stones at the windows, and trying to get into the Parsee houses. I and Mr. Raymond found a wounded Parsee in Dhunjee Dongree cross lane and we removed him to Dhunjee Dongree Street and made him over to some Parsees. We then saw a large number of Mahomedans entering Dhunjee Dongree Street. I and Mr. Raymond kept back most of the mob from entering this street. A few policemen came and we dispersed the crowd and I then returned to Shaik Abdool Raymon Street, where the crowd had been dispersed and a number of them were in custody. I seized an Arab with the assistance of Mr. Edginton. Prisoner No. 2?, Rahib Salem, is the Arab I refer to. He had two iron bars in his hand. I saw him on the verandah of a house with the iron bars in his hands. He ran away and I pursued him and caught him. He escaped, and I again caught him. I first saw him in a house on the market side of Shaik Abdool Raymon Street. I recognise prisoner No. 9, Abdool Rahman, and No. 38, Wacket Seedee, as having been in Shaik Abdool Raymon Street. They had sticks in their hands. I saw all the prisoners assembled in the street, and I knew they were marched off to the Mombadavie Chowkey in charge of Inspectors Page and Killeen and some other police officers.

Mr. Souter, examined by Mr. Hearn—Am Commissioner of Police, Bombay. Was in Abdool Raymon Street on the 13th February. Saw the crowd. Made a great number of arrests. When the rioters were taken up they were all placed on one side, and when the riot was quelled entirely they were placed in charge of Messrs. Mills and Killeen. An efficient body of police was placed by me to prevent further rows. Was present when the batch of prisoners was marched off to chowkey. Accompanied them myself. The other batches of prisoners were taken in other parts of the town. Those referred to by me as having been arrested in Abdool Raymon Street were placed separately. There were a few men injured. These were among the prisoners. Those badly injured were sent to hospital. They were not included in the general batch marched off to the chowkey.

To the Court—When I arrived on the scene a great number of people were laying about with sticks, and committing acts of destruction. They were all arrested by my orders, to prevent further rioting. Several men were seen by me coming out of Jeejeebhoy's house with property. They cannot be identified individually by me. They were put under a guard at the lock-up. These must be the men who were in custody.

Mr. Branson rose and addressed the Court on behalf of the prisoners whom he defended. He said—Your Worship could not have failed to see that twenty-six out of this batch of prisoners have not been identified at all. In the first place there is a question of jurisdiction, and secondly, your Worship, there is the responsibility you might not wish to undertake, and you will perhaps give them the opportunity of being tried by a jury. These men happened to be in Abdool Raymon Street when the riot occurred, and of course were arrested. There is no evidence to prove that they committed a riot; in fact they are not identified. Another thing which must have attracted your Worship's attention was the evidence of Dhunjeebhoy. There cannot be a single atom of truth in what he said. With regard to the other prisoners, single policemen seem to have arrested them, as they now identify them one by one in turn. It is not for me to say, but could it not have been possible that these men were arrested by policemen as they were moving about among the excited crowd. I say again, your Worship, that there is not anything like evidence which would guarantee these unfortunate men being condemned. If, however your Worship should commit this case to the Sessions, I beg to urge that bail be received for those who tender it.

The Magistrate then had all the prisoners arranged before the bar, and committed them one and all to take their trial at the ensuing Criminal Sessions for being members of an unlawful assembly, and not dispersing when ordered to do so.

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At the County Jail on the 10th March, before Mr. Nana Merojee, a batch of seventeen Mahomedans were brought up from remand and charged with disorderly behaviour in a place of public resort, on the 13th February last at Shaik Abdool Raymon Street.

Mr. Mirza Hoo-sein Khan appeared for the defence.

Several policemen identified the prisoners whom they had respectively arrested. At the close of the evidence, the Magistrate adjudged the whole of the prisoners guilty, and fined each of them Rs. 20 and ordered them to be bound over in their own recognizances in Rs. 100 each.

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At the Fort Police Court on the 11th March, before Mr. Nana Merojee, another batch of six Mahomedans was brought up from remand, and charged under the Police Act with disorderly behaviour in a place of public resort, on the 13th February last, at Shaik Abdool Raymon Street.

Mr. Branson, instructed by Mr. Mirza Hossein Khan, appeared for the defence.

Four of the prisoners pleaded guilty to the charge. The Magistrate upon the evidence adduced convicted the whole of the prisoners, and sentenced them to pay a fine of Rs. 20 each, and further to be bound over in the sum of Rs. 100 to keep the peace.

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## THE KHETWADY RIOT.

ON the 14th February, at the Fort Police Court, before Mr. Connon, twenty-nine Mahomedans were charged at the instance of Mr. Superintendent Mills with committing riot at Khetwady and being members of an unlawful assembly, also committing mischief whilst being engaged in rioting.

Mr. Thomas Mills said—I am Superintendent of Police C. division. Yesterday, shortly after one o'clock, whilst at the Girgaum Police Court, I received information that a riot was going on at Parsee Wara, in Khetwady. I proceeded to the place. I saw a crowd of Mahomedans at the end of Parsee Wara Street. Some of the Mahomedans were throwing stones at houses occupied by Parsees. When police were entering in one end of the street, the rioters turned round and ran through the other end of the street towards Falkland Road. The rioters were met while running away by other policemen; many of them were arrested;—while others made their escape.

Those now here were all arrested that time. I can't especially identify any of them; they were arrested by a sepoy. Two of the prisoners, Dya Bhaya and his son, were arrested after the riot by the Parsees. They were pointed out by persons who were injured by them.

Ardaseer Pestonjee sworn—I live at Khetwady, in Ardaseer Dady Street. Yesterdy afternoon, between 1 and 2 o'clock, I was in my house. I saw several Mussulmans and Bhungees. I saw several Mussulmans throwing stones at the windows. Prisoner No. 16 struck me with a stick on my head. I saw prisoner No. 3 striking a Parsee in the crowd. I saw prisoner No. 15, Dya, in the crowd. He was trying to catch hold of a Parsee girl. I interfered and was struck by the prisoner No. 16. I saw prisoner No. 15 throwing stones at a Parsee house, and one of the stones thrown injured a Parsee woman. I saw this myself.

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On the 4th March Mr. Hearn, Public Prosecutor, appeared to conduct the prosecution. Mr. Branson and Mr. Budroodeen, instructed by Mr. Khunderao, appeared on behalf of the prisoners Nos. 15 and 16, and Mr. Leith, instructed by Mr. Khan, for the rest.

Cooverjee Byramjee, examined by Mr. Hearn, said—I am a turner in the G. I. P. Railway, and live at Khetwady. I live in the same house with Dossebaee, woman, and other tenants. I returned home on Friday, the 13th February, at 12 o'clock, noon. I stayed at home until 2 P.M. About 2 P.M. I heard the shouts of "Deen Deen." I then put my head out of my window and I saw several Bhungies, Arabs, and Mussulmans. I saw them coming from the direction of Bhungywarra. I can recognize two of the prisoners, Dya and his son. There were about 150 persons behind these two prisoners. Dya was at the head, and he was holding a stone in his hand, and his son a stick. Others were holding stones and sticks in their hands. Dossebaee went down the verandah to fetch her son, when Dya threw a stone at her, which hit her and bled her eye." The rest of the crowd were shouting out "Deen, Deen," and throwing stones at the windows. Dya and other prisoners were twenty paces from me when Dya threw the stone at Dossebaee. The mob was then advancing towards me. I told Dossebaee to take the child in. They threw stones at my windows. My windows are made of wood. When the windows were shut I could not see anything out. I remained in my room until the police came. The police came at about 3 P.M. I heard the shouts to apprehend the mob. I was all the while in my room. I kept my windows shut all the time. At 6 P.M. I opened my windows, when I saw Mr. Mills, to whom I showed Dossebaee's wound. I left my house between 6 and 7 o'clock.

Eduljee Dorabjee, examined by Mr. Hearn, said—I am a fitter in Messrs. Sorabjee Shapoorjee's foundry. I live at Khetwady. I was returning to my house on Friday the 13th February, at about 2 P.M. I met a crowd at the corner of the school at the entrance of Bhungywarra. One of the bones of my arm had been broken. I received a blow with a bludgeon from prisoner No. 3. I had not provoked him in any way. I know three men that made a rush at my body. Two of them are here. They are prisoners Nos. 3 and 17. When they rushed at me and gave me a blow, I ran into the school. I stayed there about half an hour. I concealed myself till it became quiet. Afterwards I came out and walked home.

Mr. Hearn having intimated that the case for the prosecution closed, the magistrate said that he intended bringing the offence under the Police Act, charging prisoners with disorderly behaviour in a place of public resort; but if any of the counsel for the prisoners wished to press their defence, he would certainly listen to it, although a much more lenient punishment might be awarded if his Worship dealt summarily with the case.

This was, after a short discussion, agreed to. The counsel for the defence recommended that his Worship would treat those prisoners against whom nothing was proved very much more leniently than others against whom assault and other petty charges were proved.

Ultimately the magistrate sentenced all the prisoners to pay a fine of Rs. 20 each, and to be bound over in their own recognizances in the sum of Rs. 100 each, and two sureties in the sum of Rs. 50 each.

## THE SONAPORE RIOT.

On the 18th February at the Fort Police Court, before Mr. Nana Morojee, Acting Third Magistrate, thirty-seven Mussulmans, engaged in the riot on the 15th, were charged, at the instance of Mr. Superintendent Mills, with committing riot and mischief, being members of an unlawful assembly; also with rioting, armed with deadly weapons.

The prisoners were brought under a military escort.

Mr. Thomas Mills said—I am Superintendent of Police in charge C. Division. On Sunday last, the 15th instant, at about 10 o'clock, I saw two Mahomedan burial processions, accompanied by about 400 or 500 persons, passing from Bhoywada towards Bholeshwur Road, whence they proceeded to Portuguese Church Street. I, with about twenty native policemen and one mounted sowar, accompanied them. They proceeded through the Agiary Lane and Old Sonapore Lane to the Mahomedan burial ground. At Sonapore Lane I was met by Inspector Austin, Constable Brewin, and about ten or fifteen native policemen. The procession passed into the grave-yard, Inspector Austin and several native policemen going with the procession into the grave-yard. I with the other policemen remained at the gate of the burial-ground. Shortly afterwards an alarm was given that stones were thrown into the grave-yard. Mr. Austin was standing near the wall inside, and called out and told me that stones had passed over his head. The Mahomedans, some of whom were in the mosque and others in the yard, all rushed to the wall of the grave-yard in an excited state. I was mounted on a horse, and I galloped to the outside of the lower corner of the grave-yard, from which direction the stones were stated to have been thrown. There I saw in the Sonapore Lane between 200 and 300 Parsees, the greater portion armed with sticks and bludgeons. They were throwing stones at the Mahomedans in the grave-yard, and the Mahomedans were throwing stones from the grave-yard at the Parsees. I with the other policemen went between both the parties; and while we were trying to press each party back, two or three of the police were struck and injured. The Mahomedans rushed out over the wall. They rushed through the police and amongst the Parsees. The Parsees turned and fled. When the Mahomedans first rushed upon the Parsees, a couple of men from each side were injured. After the Parsees had cleared away, the police drove the Mahomedans back to the grave-yard, and they were kept there until things got a little quiet. I had sent Mr. McDowell, the Municipal Inspector, to the Null Bazaar Chowkey for some reinforcement of the police before any disturbance had taken place. I had at the same time despatched a sepoy to call the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police with all the aid they could get. I sent Mr. Inspector Austin in a buggy after the first disturbance to the commander of the troops to require the aid of the military. The Mahomedans who had been driven back into the grave-yard as aforesaid formed themselves into a procession to return home. They were in an excited state, and a greater portion of them were armed with sticks. Before they had left the grave-yard I had information that a large number of Parsees had collected on the Breach Candy Road at the end of the Sonapore lane, by which end the procession had to pass. I sent a European police officer and some sepoys with directions to disperse the crowd: the police brought back information that the Parsees refused to go away. Before allowing the Mahomedans to leave the grave-yard, I myself rode to the end of the lane and saw hundreds of Parsees collected there and on the Breach Candy Road, a great number of them armed with sticks and bludgeons. One of the Parsees whom I know, as a clerk in the Municipality, was in the front of the crowd. I remonstrated with him and the others, pointing

out that their conduct might lead to a serious disturbance. He and others, who were very much excited, said "the police won't protect us: we must protect ourselves." I insisted upon their clearing the road, and moved them back. The Mahomedan procession then came down the Sonapore Lane and turned to the left on the Breach Candy Road on their way home. I had the police drawn up on the right of the lane. As the latter part of the procession passed out of the lane the Parsees made a rush, shouting and brandishing sticks. The police at this time were between both parties; the Mahomedan procession stopped, turned round, made a dash through the police and amongst the Parsees. They got mixed amongst the Parsees and struck each other with sticks. The greater portion of the Parsees then fled—some into the houses and verandahs and others towards Dhobe Talao. Those Mahomedans who were scattered about, and those who were following the Parsees, were driven back by the police towards the Breach Candy Road. They then began to throw stones at the windows of Parsee houses, and attempted to enter the verandahs of the houses, but were prevented by the police from doing so. At this stage the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner arrived with a police reinforcement. The police charged into the crowd, and the crowd turned and fled; some men to Funnuswady, and others to the Agiary lane. The crowd rushed in all directions. All the prisoners now present, except three, were arrested by the police while they were running away. Several of them were arrested in a lane close to the Parsee Agiary. In consequence of the riot on the Breach Candy Road about six or eight persons, some Parsees and some Mahomedans, were injured, out of them three or four have since died in the Jamsetjee Hospital from the result of the injuries. I cannot identify particularly any single individual as having done any particular act, but they were all present at the riot, and refused to disperse when desired to do so. The troops arrived quickly, but before they arrived the mob had dispersed.

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On the 9th March at H.M.'s County Jail, the forty-five prisoners, of whom thirty-seven were Mahomedans and eight Parsees, were arraigned before Mr. Nana Morojee, the third Magistrate of Police, for committing riot and mischief, being members of an unlawful assembly, and rioting, armed with deadly weapons on the 15th February last.

Mr. Hearn, Public Prosecutor, conducted the case for the prosecution; Dr. Dallas appeared for the Parsee prisoners Nos. 37, 38, and 43; Mr. Pherozshaw M. Mehta, for Parsee prisoners Nos 39, 40, 41, 42 and 44; and Mr. Branson for all the Mahomedan prisoners from No. 1 to 36.

Frederick Austin was examined by Mr. Hearn. He said—I am inspector of police and do duty at Dhobie Talao. On Sunday, the 15th of February, I accompanied a Mahomedan funeral to Sonapore. I went to Sonapore lane, and into the graveyard, about 10 o'clock. The Mahomedans were digging a grave at the south end of the graveyard. I saw some stones coming from the direction of the Chundunwady lane. At first there were three or four stones, afterwards the number increased, some stones as large as my fist, of different sizes, or ordinary metalling stones. I then went to the wall of the graveyard which divides the lane from the graveyard. I looked over it. It was about 4 feet high inside and about 8 feet outside. I saw a crowd of Parsees in the street; they were standing on the other side of the wall in the lane. They were armed with sticks, most of them with bamboo sticks. When I saw them they were throwing stones. They were about 250 in number. They were shouting and shaking their sticks. In consequence of this the Mahomedans in the graveyard rushed towards the wall. The police interfered and they remained back for a second or two. The stones continued to come over. I and some sepoys jumped over the wall into the street. I ordered the Parsees to disperse: they refused to do so. The Seedees at the graveyard then commenced to throw stones into the street, and then about 30 or 40 Seedees jumped over the wall into the street, and made a rush towards the Parsees, and the police then got between both the parties and prevented them from coming to blows. As the police drove the Seedees back, the Parsees advanced towards the Seedees; they were not then throwing stones. One of the Parsees, whom I cannot recognize, asked for the police to stand on one side that they might attack the Seedees. The Seedees then in a mob turned back and rushed on the Parsees and drove them to the end of the lane. Here I saw two or three Seedees struck by Parsees with sticks. The police then drove back the Seedees into the graveyard. I then called to Mr. Mills for assistance. By the direction of Mr. Mills I went to the Marine Lines to ask for military aid. I was away about 20 minutes, when I came back and arrived at Dady Satt's Agiary Lane the disturbance was quelled, and the police were making arrests of Seedees, who were concealing themselves in stables and some Hindoo houses, on lofts of houses, and in water-closets. Before my arrival, about 20 Seedees had been arrested. I saw them in custody in Agiary Lane and all lashed together. I saw about 10 arrested myself. I assisted in arresting a few. I did not count how many Mahomedans were arrested on that day. I can identify some. I identify Nos. 5, 9, 10 and 11 as those who were in the row at Sonapore Lane. 17 of the prisoners that were arrested were taken to the Dhobie Talao chowkey, and the rest to the Mombadavee chowkey. I did not go with them. After the disturbance was over I went to my station at Dhobie Talao. On the 23rd ultimo, I and Mr. Brewin arrested the eight Parsee prisoners, from No. 37 to No. 44. These men were arrested at Dhobie Talao. We arrested them under the direction of Mr. Mills, as we were instructed to arrest such as we could identify that took part in the disturbance on that day. I identify prisoners Nos 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, and 44, as being engaged in the riot. No. 37 on that occasion had a stick made of teak wood, thin at the bottom and widened off to 2 or 2½ inches at the top. I did not take the stick from him, as I could not get close enough to him to do so. I saw Nos. 38 and 40 throwing stones. Nos. 37 and 39 were most violent. The six Parsees were in the front of the Parsee gang. I had known Nos. 42 and 44 by sight before the disturbance took place. After arresting these Parsees I took them to the Dhobie Talao chowkey and on the following day they were placed before a magistrate. In this riot a great many people were injured, four Mahomedans and one Parsee died in consequence of the injuries they had received. I attended at the inquest of the Parsee.

Henry John Brewin said—I am a constable of police and do duty at Dhobie Talao. On Sunday, the 15th February, I was present at New Sonapore Lane, when a funeral procession came up, escorted by Mr. Mills and a party of the police. On the arrival of the funeral procession to the graveyard I went into the graveyard with the procession by the direction of Mr. Mills. Before its arrival there was no Parsee mob there, except about two or three stray Parsees: they were only passers-by. After we had gone into the graveyard, the dead body was placed near the grave, when a shower of stones came into the graveyard from the south end. I immediately went to the wall and looked over, and saw there from 2 to 300 Parsees had collected. This was about ten minutes after we had entered the graveyard. Some of the Parsees were throwing stones into the graveyard, and the others were jumping about like maniacs. I jumped over the wall and told the Parsees to disperse. They told me to stand aside, and said that I was of no use there, and that they intended to protect themselves. I cannot say that any of those Parsees that said so are here to-day. I can identify prisoners Nos. 37, 38, 39, 41 and 43 as throwing stones. While I was thus engaged in dispersing the crowd some of the Seedees jumped over the wall. The police endeavoured to keep them back. Some rushed by, and then a fight ensued between the Seedees and Parsees. The Parsees made a front for a minute, and then ran away towards Trinity Church. The police then drove back the Seedees into the graveyard, while so doing, in one case where a Seedee would not go back into the graveyard, he was laid hold of by several Seedees, and thrown back over the wall. I should say about 50 Seedees came over the wall, and about 200 remained in the graveyard. After getting them all (Seedees) back into the graveyard, by Mr. Mills' order I went to the corner of

the Sonapore Lane on to the Breach Candy road to disperse a crowd of Parsees who had blockaded the lane. They had sticks in their hands. I had not been five minutes there when I asked them to disperse. They refused to do so, saying I was of no use. After I had been there five minutes Mr. Mills came over and told the Parsees to disperse, and they would not. The return funeral procession then came up in regular order. The Parsees then moved on one side, and the next thing I noticed was a fight between the two parties. I cannot say who commenced it; the greater portion of the Seedees were armed with cudgels. In course of some time Mr. Edginton came over and dispersed the mob. There were a great many with broken heads: I cannot say how many. After the mob got dispersed, the police made after the Seedees, and many were arrested. I can identify Nos. 10 and 30 that I had arrested. No. 30 had a stick in his hand. When I arrested him he had none. No. 10 was in the graveyard jumping about with a stick and shouting. I then went towards Bhooleshwar, following up the Seedees who had made off that way. Later in the day I took two of the Seedees into the hospital. Besides these I have seen several Seedees and Parsees in the hospital some days after the riot. I do not know how many Seedees or Parsees were taken into hospital on the day of this riot. I attended the inquest of two Seedees and two Mahomedans: their names are Feroze, Ahmed, Lucka, and a Mussulman, name unknown. The adjourned inquest which I attended was about 14 days after the riot. The verdict in each case was culpable homicide amounting to murder by some person or persons to the jurors unknown. I and Mr. Austin arrested on the evening of the 23rd February prisoner Nos. 37, 38, 39, 41, and 43. There were two funeral processions coming towards the Sonapore burial ground. The people inside the graveyard were perfectly orderly before the shower of stones came into the graveyard. I saw no provocation whatever given by the Mahomedans to the Parsees. The retaliation was almost immediately after the shower of stones had commenced. Some of the Mahomedans complained to me, *Ye cah jullum ay?* It was afterwards they began to retaliate. No, violent resistance was offered by any of the Mahomedans at the burial ground, except by those Seedees who were forcibly pulled back into the graveyard. When I said that the Parsees moved back in my examination in-chief, I meant that they moved back to admit of the Seedees passing the corner. There was very little space between the outside file of the advancing Seedees and the front rank of the Parsees. The Seedees' heads that were broke I believe was done by the Parsees and the police. The police did not pursue the Parsees, because they had cleared away from the road, and were standing on the verandahs of their houses, leaving the Seedees in the sole possession of the street.

Mr. Branson, at the close of the case for the prosecution, contended strongly as to the innocence of several of his clients, especially Nos. 25, 24, 36, 33, 31, 32, 28, and others, stating that there was no evidence whatever against them, they being arrested because some were running away, and others concealed in a house.

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On the 10th March, the Magistrate said he had carefully read over the whole of the evidence that was taken for the prosecution, and had also taken into consideration the remarks offered by Mr. Branson on behalf of his clients, and he had come to a decision in respect to prisoners Nos. 4, 24, 31, 32, 33, and 36. His Worship said he had determined to discharge these six prisoners, and commit the remainder for trial at the ensuing Criminal Sessions of the High Court.

Prisoners Nos. 4, 24, 31, 32, 33, and 36 were immediately discharged, and the remainder, on being challenged if they had anything to say in defence, said they reserved their defence. They were then formally committed to take their trial at the next Criminal Sessions of the High Court.

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## DISTURBANCE AT BHENDY BAZAAR.

On the 10th March, a batch of four Mahomedans were brought up from remand and placed before Mr. Nana Morojee, charged with disorderly behaviour in a public thoroughfare on Friday, the 13th February last.

Mr. Mirza Hoosein Khan appeared for the defence.

William Boorer said—I am a constable of police, and do duty in the E Division. On Friday, the 13th February last, at 1-20 p.m., I went on the Bhendy Bazaar Road. I saw a number of Mussulmans and Arabs shouting out *deen, deen*. I saw prisoner No. 2 throwing stones there. I arrested him and gave him in custody of the police. The other prisoners, Nos. 1, 3, and 4, were also throwing stones and shouting. I also arrested them. In the meanwhile the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner arrived at the scene and dispersed the mob. I also saw the rest of the prisoners in the mob.

At the close of the evidence, Mr. Mirza refrained from saying anything on behalf of the defence, but asked the Magistrate to deal with the case leniently. He said that this was a case similar to the one disposed of by the Senior Magistrate on Friday last.

The Magistrate said upon the evidence adduced he would convict the prisoners, and sentenced them to pay a fine of Rs. 20 each and to be bound over in their own recognizances in Rs. 100 each.

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## RIOT AT FALKLAND ROAD.

On the 12th March at the Fort Police Court, before Mr. Nana Morojee, a Mahomedan hack buggy driver, named Shaik Cassim Chand, was brought up on remand and charged with being a member of an unlawful assembly and rioting on the 13th February last at Falkland Road.

Pestonjee Furdoonjee said—I am a railway contractor, and live on the Falkland Road. On Friday the 13th February last, at about half-past 2 or 3 o'clock P.M., I received certain information about a disturbance in Shaik Abdool Raymon Street. I closed the doors and windows of my house. Just after I had done so, the prisoner, accompanied by about 300 Mahomedans, came in front of my house. Prisoner said to the mob, "What are you looking at? Set to work." On this the members of the mob called out "Deen, Deen," and commenced to throw stones at the windows of our house and the windows of the adjoining Parsee houses. They continued throwing stones for a quarter of an hour. Myself and others were looking out through the venetians of windows on the first storey of the house. Meanwhile a police havildar and a sepoy happened to come about three hundred paces from the mob, whereupon the latter dispersed. The inmates of the house continued to be confined inside until next day at half-past 12 o'clock, when Mr. Souter, accompanied by some of his subordinate officers, happened to pass by our house. On this I opened the windows of my house and called Mr. Souter's attention to the windows. About fifty panes of glass of the windows had been broken. We informed him of what had taken place on the previous day, and gave him the prisoner's name. Mr. Souter and other police officers went along with me into the aforesaid chawl in order that I might point out the prisoner to him.

The Magistrate, after taking the evidence of other witnesses, committed the prisoner to take his trial at the ensuing Criminal Sessions of the High Court.

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## DISTURBANCE IN BEEBEE JAN STREET.

At the Fort Police Court on the 12th March, before the Senior Magistrate, Burjorjee Sombjee was charged at the instance of Mr. Inspector O'Connor, with riotous and disorderly behaviour in Beebee Jan Street on Friday the 13th February last. Mr. Macfarlane, of Messrs. Macfarlane and Skipsey, appeared for the defence.

Mr. Macfarlane said that the defendant was kept in custody for four or five days, for assaulting a Mahomedan on the first day of the riot in Beebee Jan Street. He being the only Parsee there he used a stick in self-defence. He was a very respectable and quiet man, and the present charge was the first of the kind preferred against him.

Evidence for the prosecution was then called.

Mr. Macfarlane declined to say anything more for the defence, but called evidence in respect to his client's character.

The Magistrate, in disposing of the case, said that the fault seemed to be on both sides, but the fact of knocking out a man's tooth was of itself a serious offence. He could not do otherwise than convict the defendant on a charge of disorderly behaviour, which was

clearly proved against him, for which he could not deal more leniently than sentence him to fourteen days' rigorous imprisonment.

Mr. Macfarlane drew his Worship's attention to the fact that the man was actually in police custody for five days.

The Magistrate wanted to know whether such was the case.

Mr. Constable Gillingwater said that the defendant was in custody for four or five days.

The Magistrate said that it was quite irregular. He could not interfere, as it was not within his jurisdiction. Peace must be observed somehow in the town. He did not care for either Mahomedans, Hindoos, or Parsees.

The sentence passed by the Magistrate was then considered final.

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## CORONER'S INQUESTS.

We also append a brief account of the proceedings at the various Coroner's Inquests:—

A Coroner's inquest was held on Sunday, the 15th February, at the Jamsetjee Hospital, concerning the cause of the death of Dadabhoy Rattonjee, when the following principal evidence was adduced:—

Gungadas Mucoondas said—I am a dealer in gold, and live in Bhoolesh war. On Friday, the 13th inst., little before 2 o'clock in the afternoon, I was sitting in the shop of my master, which is situated in Shaik Memo Street, near Khurra Kuoa, when I saw the deceased in the street. He was being assaulted by a Mahomedan with a bamboo about two feet long. I saw the Mahomedan strike the deceased two blows, one on the head and one on the chest. Deceased fell to the ground in front of my master's shop. Some passers-by picked him up and carried him into a shop adjoining that of my master, and laid him down there. I saw that he had a wound on the head, and that it was bleeding. He was sensible and asked to be sent to the hospital. I cannot say whether I can recognize the man who struck the deceased. My sight is not very good. After striking him and knocking him down the Mussulman ran away in the direction of Withulwady lane. The man who struck the deceased was not of a black complexion like a Seedee, but was fair and appeared to be a mendicant. He was dressed in a brown cotton jacket, a skull cap covered with a white cloth, and a pair of white cotton tight trowsers. He had a bundle under his arm. When he was striking the deceased, he was shouting "deen! deen!" The deceased was not striking any body —he had nothing in his hand and was defenceless. When deceased was carried into the aforesaid shop, he said that he was returning from the Fort when he was assaulted in the street. Only one Mahomedan came into my street, the one who assaulted the deceased. About an hour after the deceased was taken into the shop, a police peon was brought, and he placed deceased in a bullock cart and took him away. He was sensible and was able to get into the cart without assistance. When I say only one Mahomedan came into my street, I mean at the time the deceased was being assaulted. I did not see the Mahomedan arrested.

Muggunlal Keerparam said—I am a gold and silver broker, and live in Shaik Memon Street. I did not know the deceased. The day before yesterday, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, I was sitting with the last witness in the shop of Bhugwan Motee, which faces the street, when I saw the deceased coming from the direction of the Fort, and going in the direction of Khurra Kuoa. When he had come to within ten or fifteen paces of the shop where I was sitting, I saw a Mussulman, who appeared to be going the opposite way, and who had a white bamboo in his hand. The Mussulman ran up to the deceased as soon as he saw him, with the intention of assaulting him, and the deceased ran to the verandah of a shop. The Mussulman followed him into the verandah and pulled him out into the street. The deceased put his hands up supplicatingly and said, "I am a gureeb admee; don't beat me," and he tried to run away, but before he could get away the Mahomedan struck him a blow with the bamboo on his back, another on his shoulder, and a third on his head. On receiving the blow on his head the deceased fell down in the street and the Mahomedan ran away towards Withulwady lane. Several Banias came up to the deceased and carried him to a vacant shop. I went up to him: he was sensible. He said that he had come from the Fort and was hungry and asked for some food. Some Banias went and fetched a police peon after an hour and the deceased was placed in a bullock cart and taken away. When he was in the empty shop some water was given to him, which he drank. When he was being assaulted he had nothing in his hand except a handkerchief, and he did not strike the Mahomedan.

The enquiry was adjourned until the 6th March, when the jurors returned the following verdict:—

"That death was caused by compression of the brain, the result of a blow on the head with a stick inflicted by some person to the jurors unknown, under such circumstances that the act of such person to the jurors unknown was culpable homicide amounting to murder."

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Another inquest was held at the hospital on the 15th February concerning the death of a Mahomedan named Hyatehaw Mahomed, aged about 80 years, who came to Bombay from Dhewndy on the morning of the 13th February.

Wittoo Baboo deposed—I am police peon No. 471B, and do duty at the junction of Parell and Obelisk roads. Yesterday, about 1 P.M., I saw the deceased throwing stones at the windows of the Bonton Hotel. I arrested him and took him to the Mazagon Police Office. When I and another policeman approached Chowky Mohla, a number of Mahomedans came out of the side lanes, shouting "deen, deen." They threw stones at us, and I saw one of the stones strike the deceased on the head, which caused a bleeding wound of the scalp. I could not say who threw the stone.

After two more witnesses were examined, the case was adjourned for further enquiry until the 6th March, when the jurors returned the following verdict:—

"That death was caused by fracture of the skull and compression of the brain, the result of a blow from a stone by some person to the jurors unknown, under such circumstances that the act of such person to the jurors unknown was culpable homicide amounting to murder."

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On Monday, the 16th February, Dr. Blaney, acting Coroner, held an inquest at the Jamsetjee Hospital on the body of a Mussulman named Hajee Ahmed. The following principal evidence was taken:—

Bhiwa Visram said—I am a police peon No. 574 C., and do duty in Chirra Bazaar. Yesterday about 11-30 A.M. a Mussulman from the burial ground in Sonapoor came and informed me that a wounded Mussulman had been carried to the Musjid of the Mahomedan burial ground in Sonapore. I went to the burial ground and saw the deceased lying in the Musjid. He was wounded on the face and back and was bleeding. He was sensible. I asked him who wounded him, and he replied that he had been beaten by Parsees with sticks, and that he had received a blow from the clenched fist over the eye. I asked whether he could recognize the Parsees who assaulted him. He replied that he could not. I then brought a bullock *rekta* in which I placed the deceased and took him to the Jamsetjee Hospital.

The Coroner adjourned the case for further inquiry to Friday, the 6th March.

On the same day and at the same place another inquest was held on the body of one Lucka Jeera.

Essoo Bappoo said—I am a police peon No. 510 C., and do duty at Dhobie Talao. I have looked at the body before this inquest, and identify it as that of Lucka, who was found by me yesterday about 11-30 A.M. on the Breach Candy road, near the chawl of Juggonath Sunkersett. He was wounded on the head and was bleeding. I spoke to the deceased but found that he was insensible. I placed him in the *rekla* in which I had just before placed another wounded Mussulman, and I took them both to the Jamsetjee Hospital.

The inquiry was also adjourned to Friday, the 6th March.

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A third inquest was held on the same day, and at the same place, on view of the body of a Mussulman, name unknown.

Essoo Bappoo said—I have looked at the body before this inquest and identify it as that of the deceased, who was found by me on the Breach Candy road, near the house of Juggonath Sunkersett, about 11-30 A.M. yesterday. He was wounded on the head and bleeding profusely. He was insensible. I procured a *rekta*, placed him in it, and took him to the Jamsetjee Hospital, where I arrived about noon.

The case was also adjourned.

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On the 6th March the adjourned inquests were held, when Constable Brewin gave the following evidence in respect of the three deceased persons :—

Henry John Brewin said—I am a police constable and do duty at Dhobie Talao. The police have instituted inquiries into the cause of the deaths of the three deceased persons, and have been unable to find any additional witnesses who can testify to that matter.

The jurors thereupon returned the following verdict in respect of each deceased person :—"That death was caused by fracture of the skull, the result of injuries inflicted by some person or persons to the jurors unknown, under such circumstances that the act of such person or persons to the jurors unknown was culpable homicide amounting to murder."

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On Tuesday, the 17th February, an inquest was held at the Jamsetjee Hospital on the body of Feroze, a Mahomedan, who died in the morning.

Mariam, woman, said—I am the wife of one Ambrook, and live at old Nagpada. I have looked at the body before this inquest, and identify it as that of the abovenamed deceased, who was a weaver, and about 30 years of age.

Ramjee Bhicajee said—I am a police peon No. 546 C., and do duty on the Breach Candy Road. About noon yesterday a fight occurred near Cheera Bazaar between Parsees and Seedees, along with whom were a few Mussulmans. They were fighting with sticks and were also throwing stones. The fighting continued along the public road from Cheera Bazaar up to the house of Juggonath Sunkersett. After the mob had left Cheera Bazaar I saw the deceased lying on the public road at the corner of Sonapore lane. He was wounded on the head and the wounds were bleeding. I called out to him and found that he was insensible. I placed him in a buggy and brought him to the Jamsetjee Hospital.

This inquest was then adjourned to Friday, the 6th of March, at 2 p.m., at Byculla, when the following verdict was returned :—

"That death was caused by fracture of the skull, the result of a wound inflicted on him by some person to the jurors unknown, under such circumstances that the act of such person to the jurors unknown was culpable homicide amounting to murder."

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On Saturday the 28th February Dr. Blaney, Acting Coroner for the City of Bombay, held an inquest at the Jamsetjee Hospital on view of the body of a Parsee named Jamsetjee Dorabjee Dubash, aged about thirty-one years, who received severe injuries at the serious disturbance at Sonapore on Sunday, the 15th February, and from the effects of which he died at the hospital.

Dorabjee Eduljee said—I am unemployed, and live in Nanabhoy Bomanjee Street, in the Fort. I have looked at the body before this inquest, and identify it as that of Jamsetjee Dorabjee, who was my son, and about thirty-one years of age. He was formerly a dubash, but lately was without employment. On Sunday, the 15th February, at noon, the deceased left home for Dhobie Talao, for the purpose of bringing home his married sister, Ruttonbai. He was then quite well. About an hour afterwards I was informed that the deceased had been wounded in the head by a stone thrown by a Seedee. I at once went to Dhobie Talao and heard that the deceased had been taken to the house of Dr. DeCunha. On going to Dr. DeCunha's house and enquiring for the deceased, I was told that he had been taken to the Jamsetjee Hospital. I was going to the hospital in a buggy, when I was informed by Parsees that I would be assaulted by Mahomedans on the way. I therefore returned home. On the following day, Monday, I came to the hospital about 3 P.M. and saw the deceased. He was sensible and said he had been wounded on the forehead. I asked deceased how he had been wounded, and he said that while he was going along the public road for his sister he was wounded on the head by a stone thrown by a Seedee. He did not say whether he could recognize the Seedee who had wounded him. He remained in the hospital until the time of his death, which occurred about 6-30 p.m. yesterday (Friday).

Frederick Austin deposed—I am inspector of police in charge of Dhobie Talao Section. On Sunday, the 15th February, I, in company with other policemen, escorted a Mahomedan funeral procession from Sonapore Lane to the Mahomedan burial ground of Mahomed Ali Bogay. There were between two and three hundred Seedees forming the procession. Having reached the burial place the Seedees conveyed a bier to the south end of the ground, and were assembled round the grave, when some stones were thrown over the wall from Sonapore lane. I was standing near the grave when the stones were thrown. I went to the wall of the burial ground and saw about 200 Parsees assembled in the street. They were armed with sticks and were throwing stones at the Seedees, who were assembled at the grave. I, along with some sepoys, jumped over the graveyard wall into Sonapore lane and ordered the Parsees to disperse. At that moment stones began to come into the lane in large numbers and were being thrown by the Seedees, who were in the graveyard. The Parsees were sheltered by the wall of the Sonapore night soil depot. I saw the deceased there amongst the other Parsees. I could recognize him, having known him for three or four years. I did not notice whether he had a stick. He was dressed in a short coat and a skull cap. I saw him throw one or two stones at the Seedees. I went across the lane towards him, and just as I got near him he stooped down to pick a stone, and while doing so his head projected beyond the corner of the wall of the night soil depot. A large stone came from the direction of the graveyard and struck him on the forehead. He staggered, but did not fall, and I saw some Parsees bind up the wound on his forehead. He was bleeding a good deal from the wound on the forehead. I do not know what became of him as I did not see him again until I saw him three days ago in the Jamsetjee Hospital. As I saw the deceased take a prominent part in the Sonapore fight, I applied to the magistrate (Mr. Nana Morojee) five or six days ago, for a warrant for his apprehension, not knowing that he was then in hospital or so seriously injured. I now hold the warrant for his apprehension. Opposite the Sonapore night soil depot, a building was partly erected, and there were a large number of stones there. There were stones also on the road in Sonapore lane. Almost all the stones that had been thrown at the Parsees by the Seedees were thrown back again by the Parsees. They were stones which had been used for placing round the Mahomedan graves, and were very large.

Dr. William Frederick Knapp said—I made a *post mortem* examination of the body, and found the cause of death was fracture of the skull, inflammation, and abscess of the brain. I am of opinion that the wound and fracture above described were produced by a stone or some hard substance.

Dr. Blaney summed up, after which the jury returned the following verdict :—"That death was caused by fracture of the skull and inflammation of the brain, the result of a blow from a stone inflicted by some person to the jurors unknown under such circumstances that the act of such person to the jurors unknown was culpable homicide amounting to murder."

# THE LAST MOVE OF GOVERNMENT.

THE following correspondence between Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy and the Commissioner of Police appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 19th March :—

BOMBAY, 14th March.

My dear Sir Jamsetjee,—As it seems to be the opinion of many, and particularly those of your community, that the riot which took place on the 13th had been premeditated and that it was not an accidental ebullition of class malevolence, I am most anxious, in addition to the searching enquiries I have already made by means of the detective force at my command, to institute a close investigation by some other channel and altogether unconnected with my paid detectives. It is thought that the Mahomedan prisoners now awaiting trial can reveal some information which might throw light on the matter. I therefore propose to secure the services of one or two intelligent Mahomedan gentlemen with whom I would wish to associate one or more Parsees and perhaps a Hindoo or two to form themselves into a sort of committee to examine each of the prisoners separately. I would arrange that a police officer (probably Mr. Edginton or myself) should always be present, and I think under the promise of pardon, which I know Government would authorise me to offer, we should, under such an arrangement, be able to ascertain whether the riot was premeditated or not, and if it was we should by this means be able to get at the chief instigators.

I write to you therefore, as the head of your community, to ask if you will kindly nominate one or more Parsees in whom you may all have confidence for the purpose mentioned, and I feel sure that Government will be glad to remunerate any gentlemen who may kindly lend their services in this manner. I do not intend that the enquiries so organised should be confined to the prisoners awaiting trial, but any other information which the members so associated could bring forward calculated to throw light on the main points, viz., whether the riot was premeditated or not, would be carefully gone into by me.—Believe me, yours sincerely,

F. H. SOUTER, Commissioner of Police.

The Hon'ble Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bart., C.S.I.

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MAZAGON CASTLE, 15th March 1874.

My dear Mr. Souter,—I consulted with a few leading members of our community on the subject of your letter of yesterday. We feel that after the meeting of Parsees at Mazagon Castle last week it would be advisable to submit your letter to the committee which was appointed on that occasion, but before doing so I should be glad to know your wishes whether you have any objection to my handing over your letter as proposed.—Believe me, yours sincerely,

POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
BOMBAY, 16th March 1874.

My dear Sir Jamsetjee.—Pray make any use you think proper of my letter of the 14th. I shall, however, be glad of an early decision in the matter, as I am anxious these additional enquiries as proposed by me shall be instituted without delay.—Yours sincerely,

FRANK H. SOUTER.

Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bart., C.S.I.

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MAZAGON CASTLE, BOMBAY, 17th March 1874.

My dear Mr. Souter,—In reply to your letter dated 14th March 1874, I have to state that I have laid it before the committee referred to in my last letter, together with your proposal that I should delegate to them certain powers.

I am of opinion that the committee as you propose not to delegate to them any powers whatever.

In the second place, I am of opinion that such a committee, if appointed as you suggest, would be entirely without any legally recognised authority to conduct the proposed enquiry, or indeed to put any question whatever to any one or more of the prisoners.

In the third place, I fail to see what object would be attained by such an enquiry conducted by a committee so constituted, even supposing that any of the Mahomedan prisoners now in custody were willing, on an offer of pardon, to divulge the names of the instigators of the riots in the presence of the Mahomedan members of the committee. We think that such a result would be yet more easily attained by an offer of pardon privately made, and I think that the fact of such an offer having been made by, or in the presence of, such a committee as you suggest, if elicited in the Sessions Court by the counsel for the prisoners in cross-examination, would make it almost impossible to obtain a conviction in any case in which evidence was given induced by such an offer.

Lastly, I think that for the purposes merely of a judicial investigation into the conduct of those concerned in the late riots, the police both can and ought to collect evidence at least as efficiently as such a committee as you propose, while for any other purpose an enquiry by a committee into the circumstances connected with the late riots ought certainly not to be confined to the one question which

For the above reasons it is decided to decline the invitation contained in your letter to me; but I shall be ready at all times to give you any information in my power which may tend to throw light on the origin of the late riots.

Of course in declining to nominate the members of such a committee as you propose, it must not be supposed that we in any way object to the appointment by yourself, or by the Government, of any gentleman who may be willing to act as a member.—Believe me, &c.,

JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHOY.

F. H. Souter, Esq., C.S.I.

(True Copies.)

JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHOY.

On this subject we extract the following from the leading columns of the *Bombay Gazette*:—

Has Mr. Souter no friends able to restrain him from writing letters? We all know that in the saddle he is the doughtiest of cavaliers, but at the desk, whenever he sits down to put pen to paper, he seems fated to commit unnumbered follies. Who could have imagined that a Commissioner of Police, accused of having failed to detect a Mussulman plot to disturb the peace of Bombay, would gravely, and in writing, have invited the leaders of the Parsees to satisfy themselves that no such plot existed by becoming members of a Commission which should also be partly composed of Mahomedan gentlemen, and which should meet in the Common Jail and ask the actual rioters what they had to say on this subject? If Mr. Souter is really such a simpleton as to imagine that the truth about conspiracies can be found out in this easy way, we need no longer be surprised at anything that may happen in Bombay. That there was a plot, with ringleaders and contrivers, and that the outbreak of the 13th of February was not unpremeditated, may be inferred from the pains Mr. Souter took, for many days before the 13th, to persuade the Mahommedans not to be guilty of acts of violence. The event showed, however, that the Commissioner must have got hold of the wrong men, though he had a clue in his hand which it was only necessary for him to follow up patiently and skilfully in order to discover who were secretly working the springs of Mahommedan fanaticism. As the *Bombay Guardian* put it a few days ago, the ignorant Mussulmans would not have begun the riot if special efforts had not been made by educated and influential men of their own caste to force on their attention the Guzerati book which contained the obnoxious expression about their Prophet; and the business of the Police was to trace these men out and denounce them as the instigators of the riot. Mr. Forjett would have done this quietly and without fuss, and he would also have ascertained if money as well as fanaticism was not brought into use by the conspirators; but it never seems to have entered Mr. Souter's head that he should pursue his own independent inquiries instead of resting satisfied with the comforting assurances of respectable Mahommedans that all would be well. Yet the Commissioner of Police cannot be unaware that the Mahommedan population of Bombay is regularly recruited with designing and reckless characters both from all parts of India itself and from beyond the seas, and that very little mischief can be done by Mussulmans in this country of which the secret is not known in Bombay. What the Police, then, wants to make it efficient is a good Detective Department, in which we do not say that no Mahommedans should be employed, but which certainly should not be placed exclusively under Mahommedan control. When the Government has done trying to throw the blame of its own misconduct upon the Parsees, perhaps it will direct its thoughts to the work of reorganizing the Police Force so as to supply this want, and at the same time will endeavour to provide the force with a Chief enjoying a reputation for soundness of judgment, good temper, and administrative ability.

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